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Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

Japan: Butrus-Ghali Renews Call for Test Ban Treaty Signing

OW0504055296 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali renewed his call Friday [5 April] for the conclusion by the end of this year of the proposed treaty aimed at halting all underground nuclear test blasts.

"I hope we will be able to sign this treaty this year," he told the Japan National Press Club, adding he wants the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to be concluded and signed in December in Tokyo.

The U.N. chief also sought Japan's greater political role within the world body, which would go beyond Tokyo's traditional proclivity toward a financial role in resolving international problems.

On the proposed reform of the Security Council, Butrus-Ghali repeated his contention that global political and economic powers should be included in the powerful U.N. body.

But he also noted the balance between industrialized and developing countries, as well as the geographical balance, need to be taken into consideration in expanding the Security Council.

He also reiterated his concern about the United Nations' current cash shortage and budgetary crisis, noting it is necessary to prepare a new table of contributions to the U.N. in the immediate future.

"The financial crisis can be solved by political and diplomatic intervention... [ellipses as received] Let us discuss together what ought to be done to solve this financial crisis," he said.

On his stance on U.N. peacekeeping efforts, Butrus-Ghali said "the principle has not changed" but noted resolution of regional conflicts through a multinational force is the most realistic approach "for the time being."

He once advocated "preventive diplomacy" with a more active peacemaking role of the U.N. through the preventive deployment of U.N. Forces over a traditional peacekeeping approach.

Butrus-Ghali declined to comment whether he will seek another five-year term as U.N. chief after his first tenure expires late this year.

Concerning his planned trip to North Korea to promote dialogue between Pyongyang and Seoul, Butrus-Ghali said only, "There is no exact date for my visit to North Korea."

The U.N. secretary general arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a five-day visit that included a series of talks with prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and other key political figures.

He will leave Japan for New York on Saturday.

Japan: Hashimoto, Ikeda Send Condolences on Brown's Death

OW0504040796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0130 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda have respectively sent telegrams of condolence over the death of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to President Bill Clinton and Brown's widow, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said Friday [5 April].

Brown was confirmed dead after being identified from among the victims of a U.S. Air force plane crash Wednesday in Croatia.

Japan: Hashimoto 'Shocked and Saddened' Over Brown's Death

OW0504055396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has expressed his condolences on the death of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in an airplane crash in Croatia, government officials said Friday [5 April].

"I was shocked and saddened with profound distress to hear the news of the tragic accident and unexpected passing of Mr. Ronald Brown, secretary of commerce, eminent American business leaders and government officials," he said Thursday in a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Brown and 32 others were killed when a military aircraft crashed Wednesday en route to Dubrovnik, Croatia, from Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I cannot but deepen my sorrow over the tragedy as I was expecting to see Secretary Brown accompanying you to Japan in two weeks," Hashimoto said, referring to Clinton's state visit to Japan on April 16-18.

"I am sure that his dedication and contribution to the strengthening of U.S. industries' competitiveness and the promotion of Japan-U.S. economic relations will be long remembered," the prime minister said.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda also sent a letter of sympathy to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Japan: Tsukahara Expresses 'Profound Grief' Over Brown's Death

OW0504035696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0220 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara expressed his condolences Friday [5 April] over the death of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in a plane crash in Croatia.

"The news has filled me with profound grief," Tsukahara said at a news conference, noting he had been praying for Brown's safe return until the last moment.

Tsukahara appreciated the "extremely great" contributions that Brown made to the progress of Japan-U.S. economic relations during his three years in office.

Tsukahara said the accident is all the more regrettable because it came "just at a time when I was considering meeting with him in the near future to establish a personal relationship."

Brown was killed Wednesday when he was traveling in the Balkans as head of a fact-finding mission of U.S. business leaders for private-sector commitments to reconstruct the war-torn region.

Tsukahara has sent a letter of condolence to Brown's bereaved wife, while Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has forwarded similar letters to her and U.S. President Bill Clinton, Tsukahara said.

In the letter to Brown's wife, Tsukahara said, "I pay my deepest respect" to the efforts Brown made for reconstructing the afflicted Balkan region until the last hours of his life.

Japan: Special Legislation Considered on Base Land Use

OW0504081896 Naha OKINAWA TIMES (Morning Edition) in Japanese 5 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — The national government's "illegal occupation" of a plot of land in Yomitan village, which is used as the U.S. Forces' Sobe Communication Facility, is continuing. Referring to this at the House of Representatives' Budget Committee session held on the afternoon of 4 April, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said: "Since the central government has the obligation to fulfill the duties stipulated in the treaty, the government should have studied legal measures to handle such a situation as this, and I do not deny that there will be such necessity in the future."

In this way, Hashimoto disclosed his understanding that in order to fulfill the obligations stipulated in the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Status of Forces Agreement, it will be necessary to improve the legal system in the future, for example, by passing a special law to allow the central government to directly take administrative measures to secure the use of land.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama has indicated the same opinion. Since the Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee [OPLEC] has indicated its cautious approach toward the handling of the government's request for the emergency use of the land plot at issue, there prevails within the government a growing sense of unease that the state of "illegal occupation" may drag on. And that is the reason why discussion of special legislation has been raised for the first time. Opposition to the attempt to take hard-line measures through special legislation has already been voiced by democratic organizations in Okinawa

Prime Minister Hashimoto made his remarks in reply to a question by Mr. Natsuo Yamaguchi (of Shinshinto [the New Frontier Party]). At the Budget Committee session, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kajiyama also said: "It will be desirable to have some sort of a special law concerning the securing of land (for use as U.S. military bases), which is an important issue concerning basic national policy."

He pointed out: "The central government must consider taking over and completing procedures that prefectural governors are authorized to take, if they involve the country's existence. Otherwise, administrative affairs cannot work smoothly."

Kajiyama comments noted the need to review the practice of assigning certain agencies to carry out certain duties. On the issue of central government measures to deal with the situation, Kajiyama pointed out existing problems and said: "We will be in an awkward position if the central government continues to have no right to use the land. We used to have a more casual approach this problem, believing it could be settled one way or another."

At his news conference later, Kajiyama stated: "We are merely talking, in a general way, about the handling of the issue and no concrete discussions have been held yet." In this way he stressed the point his remarks were mainly aimed at bringing attention to the issue. On the other hand, however, he also said: "It is not enough only to take local interests into account when it comes to land expropriation to meet the needs of our security arrangements, which is a matter of great significance to this country."

At the same time, Defense Agency Director-General Hideo Usui said "no new legal measures are being considered at the moment."

He added: "According to the old Local Government Act, the prime minister could dismiss a governor for refusing to carry out his assigned duties. However, the fact that the governor has made such a serious decision remains unchanged."

At his regular news conference, Vice Administrative Minister Naoaki Murata of the Defense Agency said: "Since an opinion (on special legislation) has already been voiced, we cannot deal with the issue unless we make some study of the matter."

On the issue of the OPLEC'S deliberations, Prime Minister Hashimoto said: "Although the request was not submitted until the very last minute, we hope approval will be issued as soon as possible."

The central government has submitted a request to the OPLEC for approval of the enforced use of land for U.S. military bases, and also for the emergency use of a plot of land that is part of the Sobe Communication site.

Deliberations are expected to be prolonged, and Governor Masahide Ota has indicated his intention to refuse taking the next procedural step in the proxy-issuing required for public notifications.

There is a great possibility, therefore, that the "illegal occupation" will drag on. And it has been noted that the idea of special legislation has come up in the course of groping for measures to make use of the land legal.

Japan: Ikeda: 'Special' Law For Forced Land Use in 'Future'

OW0504064496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said Friday [5 April] drafting of special legislation granting the central government powers to secure the forced use of land for U.S. Forces stationed in Japan is a "future task."

Ikeda told a press conference following a regular cabinet meeting that the government for the moment will try to solve as early as possible the problems concerning forced land rental in Okinawa for U.S. Forces within the framework of current law.

A landowner in Okinawa is demanding access and eventual return of his land, which is currently occupied by U.S. military facilities, after the forced lease contract expired at the end of March.

Shoichi Chibana, 47, has filed the request with the Naha District Court, demanding access and return of his 236-square-meter plot of land, part of the 530,000-square-meter tract which the Sobe communications facility in Yomitan currently occupies.

The expiration of the lease has left the land which is occupied by the U.S. military without a clear legal status.

The central government has filed a request with Okinawa's prefectural land expropriation committee to permit emergency use of the land for six months, pending completion of a series of legal procedures to enable the continued forced use of the land.

Under the current law on the forced use of land by the U.S. military, a prefectural governor must sign necessary documents to lease the land out if landowners and municipal leaders refuse to sign them.

If the governor also refuses, the prime minister can file a suit demanding that the governor carry out his duties, and if this is rejected, the premier can sign on his behalf.

On March 28 Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto signed documents needed for continuing the forced leasing to the U.S. Forces in Okinawa Prefecture. Hashimoto signed the documents in place of Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota after Ota defied a court's order to sign the papers.

Japan: Landowner 'May' Be Allowed Onto Property on U.S. Base

OW0504090796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0852 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — The government may allow a landowner access to his lot within the perimeter of a U.S. base in Okinawa Prefecture, following the expiration of a contract to lease the site to the U.S. Military, the top government spokesman said Friday [5 April].

"It is possible if the (landowner) family alone enters," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told reporters.

He said the possibility was conditional on no confusion by demonstrators or reporters.

The government has previously rejected requests by Shoichi Chibana, a 47-year-old local grocer, for permission to enter his 236-square-meter lot lying within the Sobe U.S. military communications facility in the village of Yomitan, Okinawa Prefecture.

The contract to lease the site to the U.S. military expired Sunday midnight following chibana's refusal to renew it and Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota's refusal to obey a court order to sign documents needed to force the leasing.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has signed the documents in Ota's stead but the contract expired before legal procedures were completed to enable the continued use of the land.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said Friday he considers as a "future task" drafting of special legislation granting the central government powers to secure the forced use of land for U.S. forces stationed in Japan.

Ikeda told a press conference following a regular cabinet meeting that the government for the moment bill try to solve as early as possible the problems concerning forced land rental in Okinawa "within the framework of current law."

Japan: Hashimoto Said 'Suffering' Over Okinawa Base Issues

OW0404145996 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 3 Apr 96 p 2

[Article entitled: "Prime Minister Struggling Over 'Okinawa;' Always on the Defensive Due to Poor Judgment in Outlook; 'Disadvantage' During Japan-U.S. Summit"; by reporter Hideaki Yasuda; from the "Scope" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is suffering from the fact that a plot of land inside the U.S. military's Sobe telecommunications station is under "illegal occupation." If he should enter into the planned summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on 17 April under these circumstances, "the prime minister would be in a difficult position as he would have failed to perform his duty in fulfilling Japan's obligations under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" (according to a source connected with the Prime Minister's Official Residence). Sensing this crisis, the government is pushing the Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee, which has authority on approving "emergency use" of the plot, to speed up its deliberations. However, the government is struggling with difficulties because its refusal to allow the landowner to enter his plot has provoked the Okinawan people's resentment.

The expropriation committee's schedule of deliberations holds the key to whether the government will be able to gain authority to use the plot before President Clinton's visit. The committee has decided to convene on 12 April to deliberate on the government's request for emergency use of the plot for a 6-month period.

However, it is highly unlikely that the committee will come up with a decision after a single meeting. The situation is that "it will never be ready before the [President's] visit" (according to the same source).

Some government officials consider the upcoming summit "a golden opportunity for progress in reducing U.S. military bases, with the backing of Okinawan public opinion." Recently, some close aides to the prime minister had expressed hope that "the prime minister would march boldly [through the summit] since he is capable and very willing."

However, due to its poor forecasting of developments regarding this problem, the government has been on the defensive.

As long as illegal occupation of the Sobe plot continues, it cannot be said that the government has fulfilled its obligations under the security treaty. The government is thus sensing a greater crisis, saying that "if we have to start off the talks by making excuses, we cannot make any bold advances, and the President will strike us there; that is what diplomatic negotiations are all about" (according to an official close to the prime minister).

As a result, the central government is struggling hard to obtain the Okinawa Prefectural Government's cooperation by going through various channels to have the expropriation committee speed up its deliberations.

On 2 April, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama stated at a lower house Budget Committee meeting: "Although the state, on its part, is probably refraining from contacting the expropriation committee (which is an independent body), it is seeking the prefectural government's cooperation."

Nevertheless, the prefectural government cannot "cooperate" as long as public sentiment in Okinawa remains inflexible. Hashimoto is having a hard time because of his consideration for the Okinawan people's sentiments.

Taking a look at the issue of the landowner seeking to enter his plot, for example, the prime minister called Masuo Morodomi, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, to appear at the Prime Minister's Official Residence where he admonished the director general for his comment that the landowner's "past" remarks and behavior were the reason for the government's refusal of his entry.

When Hideo Usui, director general of the Defense Agency, indicated at an informal cabinet meeting on 2 April his intention to basically refuse the landowner's entry to his plot, Hashimoto indicated that he planned to take a flexible stance, saying: "It would be difficult to refuse if a request were to be made in a mild manner."

There are only two more weeks before the Japan-U.S. summit meeting. With a stern look on his face, Hashimoto stated his resolve at the lower house Budget Committee meeting: "(Although there is only little time left before the President's visit), I intend to make efforts toward resolving the issue."

Japan: U.S. Military Accused of Destroying Okinawa Site

OW0504083296 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 (AFP) — The US military was accused Friday [5 April] of destroying an historical site in Okinawa a day after police announced plans to charge a marine involved in a hit-and-run accident with the local governor's car.

The latest accusation against the US military came less than two weeks before President Bill Clinton arrives in Japan and followed protests earlier in the week against the heavy concentration of American troops on the island.

An official at the Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee in the Okinawan village of Katsuren said the group filed a protest last month when it learned that the US military was building a weather radar on the 2,500-year-old site.

"They said they would check with local authorities before building facilities to make sure something like this does not happen again," he said.

The official added, however, that the Okinawa Prefecture Archaeological Association planned to filed a separate protest with the US military.

Japanese archaeologists working on the site reportedly uncovered 295 pieces of earthenware and the ruins of two homes in 1991.

"Cultural heritage sites located on land occupied by the US military are treated as being outside Japanese law," the official said.

"For example, the site of a castle located at the naval port in Naha is a precious archeological site dating back to the medieval era. But archaeologists are not allowed to enter the site to carry out research.

"This is an issue not just for Okinawa but for all places in Japan where US military bases are located," the official said.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ken Shimanouchi said the government was still seeking information about the incident.

"There seems to have been an unfortunate misunderstanding or miscommunication between US forces and the local community," he told a news conference. "The US side has always shown understanding for the need to protect Japan's cultural heritage. They have shown sensitivity to this."

On Thursday, Okinawan police said they planned to file charges against a 21-year-old marine who was driving a van which bumped into the official car of prefectural Governor Masahide Ota last month.

The marine has admitted hitting the car at Naha Airport on March 21 and then driving away, police officials said. No one was hurt in the accident.

Backed by years of frustration over the US military presence and local outrage over the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three American serviceman in September, Ota has spearheaded a campaign to get US bases off the island.

Last week, the Okinawan governor refused to follow a court ruling ordering him to sign documents forcibly renewing land leases for US military facilities on the island, forcing the central government to take emergency measures.

The clash between the local and central governments has turned local landowner Shoichi Chibana into a national media celebrity for his refusal to renew a 20-year lease which expired at midnight last Sunday.

On Monday, police barred the 47-year-old shopkeeper from entering his land, which is used by the US Navy for a telecommunications facility. Chibana has started legal procedures to get his land returned but the central government has countered that this amounts to an "abuse" of his property rights.

Okinawa is home to more than half of the 47,000 American troops stationed in Japan and accounts for 75 percent of the US military facilities in the country.

Japan: U.S. Marines Sued Over Jan Traffic Accident Deaths

OW0504115696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 5 KYODO — Bereaved family members of a woman and her two daughters who were killed in a traffic accident in January in Okinawa Prefecture, have sued a lance corporal from the U.S. Marine Corps and the owner of the car she was driving, demanding 62 million yen in compensation, their lawyer said Friday [5 April].

The lawsuit was filed at the Naha District Court by two bereaved family members of Rojita Kinjo, 36, a Japanese citizen originally from the Philippines, and her daughters Mitsuko, 10, and Mariko, 1, who died of head injuries. They were hit by the car driven by Lori Padilla, 20, in the town of Chatan, north of the Okinawa capital of Naha, on Jan. 7.

The two family members demanded the compensation from Padilla and a U.S. servicewoman, the owner of the car, estimating their damages at 142 million yen, of which 80 million yen has been paid by an automobile liability insurance company, lawyer Tsutomu Arasaki said.

The plaintiffs said they did not receive sufficient compensation because the owner did not have her car optionally insured against personal injury and loss of life.

Under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces agreement, U.S. service personnel are required to take personal responsibility for damages inflicted while off duty.

However, most U.S. service personnel involved in trouble are young and incapable of taking responsibility, and there have been many cases in which victims failed to get any compensation, he said.

The family members decided to file the suit for damages in order to clarify such problems concerning the bilateral agreement.

Arasaki said, "after the ruling, we will ask the U.S. Government to pay compensation in place of the defendants, in line with the Japan-U.S. agreement.

"We want to improve, through this legal process, the current system of insufficient compensation for damages caused by U.S. service people."

The vehicle, drive by Padilla, mounted the sidewalk and hit the three at considerable speed. The marine and a woman passenger in the car were injured.

Japan: Ministry Says Phone Issue With U.S. 'Almost Settled'

OW0404132396 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO — Japan and the United States have almost settled their trade talks on the Japanese market for personal handyphone system (PHS) equipment, Posts and Telecommunications Ministry officials said Thursday [4 April].

Bilateral working-level talks have revealed that the U.S. is interested in the supply of switchboards and other equipment to Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), rather than foreign suppliers' access to the Japanese market for PHS terminals and ground stations, the officials said.

Japanese negotiators explained that the U.S. interest can be dealt with by a bilateral accord on NTT's procurement, and American negotiators accepted the explanation, they said.

The two governments, however, will continue talks throughout this year to check the number of PHS subscribers in Japan and other issues of concern to the U.S., the officials said.

The U.S. Government last year claimed that the procurement agreement should apply to NTT's PHS subsidiary. Japan turned down the claim on the grounds that the subsidiary is an entirely private company and is therefore outside the scope of the agreement.

On Wednesday, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative said the two governments have resolved issues related to procurement by NTT and the subsidiary.

Japan: Editorial Shows Concern Over USTR Trade Reports

OW0504084896 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 3 Apr 96 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Should Make the Best Use of Negotiation Results"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With this autumn's U.S. presidential election looming large, the Clinton administration appears to have begun taking a hard-line stance against Japan on individual trade issues.

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Office recently issued the "1996 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers" and the "1996 Trade Policy Agenda and 1995 Annual Report." These reports define three economic and trade issues, including the semiconductor issue, as priority issues Japan and the United States must resolve. Also, the reports list rice, telecommunications services, and music software as goods and services subject to trade barriers erected by Japan.

At high-level bilateral talks last week, the U.S. Government pressed Japan to make tangible progress on the semiconductor, insurance, and photo film issues before Clinton's visit to Tokyo in mid-April. In hearings before the U.S. Congress last week, U.S. trade authorities pledged to seek prompt settlements in the three areas, particularly insurance, even if doing so would require them to invoke "Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act" (regulating presidential sanctions against unfair trade practices).

This ostentatiously intensifying belligerence by the United States apparently stems from pressure put on the Clinton administration by Congress members, who are in turn pressed by domestic industries and individual firms whose interests are closely linked to the outcome of those trade negotiations. It may be politically expedient for Congress members who are running for reelection this autumn to demonstrate their assertiveness in trade issues with Japan.

However, it is not wise to take a hard-line stance simply because of the approaching elections. Doing so would not only harm Japan-U.S. trade relations but also shake the United States' overall diplomatic standing and development.

The Japan-U.S. trade imbalance is gradually being rectified because of increasing U.S. imports to Japan. This is particularly true in the automobile market since the bilateral automotive trade dispute was settled last summer. Air cargo issues have also been settled to the satisfaction of both sides. Therefore, based on these recent achievements, the two nations should and can continue their joint efforts to rectify the trade imbalance.

It is hard for us to comprehend the validity and logic of U.S. demands in the three fields.

For instance, the United States is demanding a freeze on entries by subsidiaries of domestic insurers into the so-called "third sector" of the insurance market, which covers cancer treatment and nursing services. Japan's revised Insurance Business Law, which took effect on 1 April, allows firms to enter this business through subsidiaries.

In fall 1994, the two nations agreed that entries by domestic insurance firms should be limited for the time being to certain types of insurance, such as that for cancer treatment, in which U.S. insurers have an overwhelming share here. A complete freeze would violate that agreement, and is contrary to the intention of the law's revision, which was meant to accelerate deregulation. It is beyond the pale to impose such a contradictory argument on a trade partner and threaten it with unilateral sanctions under Section 301.

The U.S. demand to renew the bilateral semiconductor agreement, which is to expire on 31 July, also makes no sense. When the agreement was first signed in 1986, the share of foreign semiconductors in Japan was less than 10 percent. It was more than 30 percent in the October-December quarter last year.

The Japanese semiconductor market now makes up 30 percent of the world market, compared with 40 percent 10 years ago. Economists predict the Japanese share will drop to 20 percent within a few years. Furthermore, tie-ups between Japan and U.S. companies are being accelerated in such fields as business, production, and research and development. There is no longer the significance of restricting the Japanese semiconductor market with a bilateral treaty.

The photo film issue should be handled between the industry's two top manufacturers. If Eastman Kodak Co. insists that Fuji Photo Film Co. is monopolizing the Japanese market, it should first lodge a complaint with the Fair Trade Commission.

It is a kind of managed trade to press one's trade partners with the threat of unilateral sanctions based on a domestic law — in this case, Section 301. Such a practice would violate rules set by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

When the United States threatened to unleash sanctions against Japanese cars last year while trade negotiations were under way between the two nations, it attracted criticism from many countries.

At a time when the WTO is scheduled to hold its first ministerial-level conference this autumn, if the United States repeats unilateral actions, it will inevitably draw international censure again.

Japan: U.S. Official Cites Opposition to MITI Statement

OW0404141796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 4 Apr 96

["U.S. Official Blasts MITI Statement on Bilateralism" — KYODO headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO — A dispute emerged between Japanese and U.S. trade authorities Thursday [4 April], when a U.S. Government official voiced strong opposition to a senior Japanese Trade Ministry official's statement that the age of bilateralism is over.

"You have a major ministry taking the position that somehow there will be no more bilateral discussions with the United States," the U.S. official said, blasting the stance as an "unusual position not only for Japan, but for any country."

The complaint came less than two weeks before President Bill Clinton visits Japan for a summit with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

The bilateralism statement was made by Yoshihiro Sakamoto, vice minister for international affairs at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), when he gave a speech in mid-March, saying trade friction should be settled under the World Trade Organization.

After the speech, the statement was quoted on an Internet web site as an indication that the Trade Ministry had declared an end to bilateral talks — a point the ministry denies — irritating some people in the U.S. Government and business circles.

What the statement meant was that the days are over when trading partners solved their disputes together by unilateral actions, a Trade Ministry official said. The ministry does not reject bilateral talks themselves, he added.

The U.S. took Sakamoto's statement as a new trade policy amid its frustration over Japan's steadfast refusal to make concessions on contentious bilateral trade issues involving semiconductors and photographic film, trade observers said.

Washington has insisted that progress be made in three priority trade areas — microchips, photo film and insurance — before Clinton's state visit.

Japan: Analyst Okamoto Interviewed on Relations With U.S.

OW0504045196 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 4 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Yukio Okamoto, representative of consultancy Okamoto Associates and a former Foreign Ministry official, by unidentified NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reporter; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] How do you appraise the current state of Japan-U.S. relations?

[Okamoto] As a result of the deflated bubble economy, the United States has overcome its fear of the Japanese economy, thereby extricating itself from the worst crisis. However, there still remains one time bomb, that is the security issue.

Need for Improving the Legal System

[Reporter] Wherein do you think lies the problem connected with the Japan-U.S. security arrangement?

[Okamoto] Based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty [JUST], the United States is the only country in the world that is under the obligation of defending Japan even at the expense of its own blood. However, the arrangement has so far been maintained without being actually tried out in an emergency. Now that the Cold War structure has collapsed, it has become necessary to put the Japan-U.S. security arrangement to an actual test, and it has also become necessary to improve the legal system so that JUST can function effectively and efficiently without any mistakes.

[Reporter] How do you think the issue of reconfirming the Japan-U.S. security arrangement should be dealt with?

[Okamoto] One question lies in whether JUST will actually work well, and another concerns how far the range of the Far East can extend. Deliberations should be further conducted on these questions. Unless these issues are appropriately dealt with at an early date, Japan-U.S. relations will become extremely frail.

The United States Attaches Importance to "Defense of the Far East"

[Reporter] In concrete terms, what are the dangers?

[Okamoto] There are two meanings to JUST: one concerns Article V on the defense of Japan, and the other, Article VI on the defense of the Far East. Due to its concerns over Diet deliberations, the Japanese Government has so far done its utmost to stress Article V, narrowing down the objective of JUST to the defense of Japan. On the contrary, the United States has attached importance to handling the situation connected with Article VI.

The essence of JUST indicates that while the U.S. forces are under the obligation of defending Japan and the Far East, Japan has the obligation of supporting the U.S. forces. In preparations against emergencies in the Far East, the U.S. forces have deployed a huge military strength and stored a huge amount of materials in Japan. However, if it should turn out that these troops and materials cannot be utilized in emergencies because of the Japanese government's lack of cooperation, an argument demanding abolition of JUST may possibly arise at a stretch.

The Responsibility of Politics is Indispensable

[Reporter] What are the measures that the Japanese Government should take?

[Okamoto] The point at issue will eventually concern the right of collective self-defense. Based on the current interpretation, a strict demarcation is drawn between what can be regarded as exercise of the right of collective self-defense and what cannot be, and such a demarcation is already at variance with the actual state of things. The security arrangement cannot work well unless improvements are made in this concern.

In connection with this point, what I would like to stress most is the responsibility of politics. Politicians themselves should study what things are involved with Article VI; conduct deliberations on how Japan should cooperate with the United States in case of emergencies; and appeal these questions to the people with courage.

[Reporter] What do you think of the China-Taiwan problem and the situation on the Korean peninsula?

[Okamoto] There is no country in the world other than Japan that hopes so earnestly for the peaceful settlement of the China-Taiwan issue, and the Korean peninsula problems. In case a military dispute should break out between China and Taiwan, Japan will be the heaviest loser except for the parties directly involved. There is a great possibility that Japan will fail to take concrete measures, and the relations between Japan and the United States will then become futile.

Japan: MOFA Source Says Policy Toward PRC Changed; Qian Cited

OW0504013896 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 2 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] It is now known that, with the meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen as a turning point, the Japanese Government has changed its past stand toward China, and firmed up a new policy which allows for candidly criticizing China for its military exercises in the Taiwan Strait. This was disclosed by a Foreign Ministry source on 1 April.

Regarding the Chinese military exercises, Japan, at a meeting between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Premier Li Peng in Bangkok, called for China's self-control. At that time, the government refrained from calling for suspension of the military exercises or criticizing China, saying that "third nations cannot complain about exercises held in international waters" (according to the prime minister).

However, at the Japan-China foreign ministerial meeting on 31 March, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda criticized China for the first time, saying: "Regarding the recent military exercises, we have to say that the way they were carried out will not go unquestioned." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] was prepared for China's opposition to this change of stance, but Foreign Minister Qian did not specifically express his opposition.

That is not all. Foreign Minister Qian made a remark that seemed to approve of the Taiwanese presidential election. He said: "The military exercises were an expression of our resolve to oppose Taiwan's independence. They were not meant to oppose Taiwan's elections or democratization." A Foreign Ministry source was pleased with this unexpected byproduct of the new stance, saying "we can expect a good impact on the Hong Kong issue as well."

The government adopted the policy of criticizing China after members of the Liberal Democratic Party became increasingly critical of its indecisive posture, and some people who have a hard-line view toward China and who are gaining influence said: "We should freeze the yen-based loans to China if it continues with military exercises."

The problem is whether or not this change of stance will be linked to the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue. Foreign Minister Qian still does not rule out the possibility of using force on Taiwan, saying: "We cannot promise that we will not use force."

A Foreign Ministry source said the "effect of Japan's body blow will be felt gradually." Nevertheless, China is skillful in diplomacy. It is questionable whether a policy change of this scale will produce a major outcome.

Japan: Ozawa Likely To Visit PRC, Invite Li Teng-hui to Japan

OW0504034696 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 2 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] During a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on 1 April, Ichiro Ozawa, president of the opposition New Frontier Party [NFP], indicated his intention to visit the PRC in early May.

This will be Ozawa's first foreign tour since his inauguration as NFP president, and will be his first official visit to China. He made a private visit to Shanghai in October 1995.

Ozawa has decided to visit China because the "CPC has long invited him to" visit the country (as stated by Ozawa), and because he "has great interest in China-Taiwan relations and the Northeast Asian situation from the security viewpoint" (according to his close aides). It is believed that Ozawa's visit to China is aimed at exchanging views on wide-ranging issues directly with top Chinese Government leaders.

Regarding the focal issue of China-Taiwan relations, Ozawa has indicated his intention to observe the consultations between the two sides, saying: "As long as both Taipei and Beijing assert that there is only one China, this is an internal issue and it may well be resolved internally." However, on exchanges between the Japanese and Taiwanese people, he holds the position that a private visit to Japan by Taiwan President Li Teng-hui or visits to Taiwan by senior Japanese Government officials should happen. Ozawa is expected to convey this notion to the Chinese Government.

Ozawa, who showed eagerness to visit China at a news conference in January 1995, was studying a plan to make an official visit to China in 1995. However, he postponed the plan due to the tense situation at the Diet, but privately visited Shanghai in October 1995.

Japan: Government Concerned Over DPRK DMZ Announcement

OW0504033096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Japanese Government leaders expressed concern Friday [5 April] over Pyongyang's overnight announcement that it will abandon its duties regarding the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea.

"It is not desirable for tension to grow in the Korean peninsula situation. (The announcement) is very regrettable," Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda told a news conference.

Echoing Ikeda, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters that while there may be no immediate war, the North Korean move is "very dangerous."

North Korea watchers believe the move is part of Pyongyang's strategy to scuttle the armistice accord that ended the 1950-53 Korean war and try to have the United States accept its call for a bilateral peace treaty.

Japan: Hashimoto Wants 'Normal Negotiations' With DPRK

OW0504005896 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 4 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On the evening of 3 April, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto commented on the resumption of negotiations between Japan and the DPRK (North Korea) — which have been suspended since November 1992 — in regard to normalizing diplomatic relations between the two countries. He revealed that Japan intends to strive for early resumption of bilateral negotiations, saying: "We have reached a stage where we should promote preparatory talks for normal negotiations, instead of merely acknowledging that bilateral negotiations are being conducted behind the scenes." The prime minister's comment was in response to reporters' questions at his official residence.

In mid-March, Koro Bessho, director of the Northeast Asia Division under the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, held a secret meeting in Beijing with a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official to discuss resuming bilateral negotiations. As North Korea is reportedly taking a positive stance on resuming negotiations, the Japanese Government has determined that "a tail wind has begun to blow in favor of the Japanese-DPRK negotiations" (according to a senior Foreign Ministry official). Based on this assessment, the government hopes to begin full-scale preparatory talks with North Korean negotiators after the ROK general election on 11 April. However, the ROK will undoubtedly react negatively to early resumption of Japanese-DPRK negotiations, considering it an attempt by "Japan and North Korea to move closer, while bypassing the ROK," even though ROK-DPRK relations remain stalled.

Japan: Tokyo Agrees To Give Nepal $32 Million for Power Project

OW0504120596 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, April 5 KYODO — Japan has agreed to provide Nepal with a loan of 32 million dollars through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) for the repair and rehabilitation of the Kulekhanit hydroelectric facility, a Finance Ministry press release said Friday [5 April].

According the release, Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Shigenobu Yoshida and Nepalese Finance Secretary Ram Binod Bhattarai signed and exchanged documents on the loan that carries an interest rate of one percent per annum.

Repayable over 30 years, including a grace period of 10 years, the loan will be spend for the purchase of construction equipment and installation of a telemetering and discharge warning system at the Kulekhanit dam, the only hydroelectri facility in Nepal.

Built in 1982 and 1986, the 92 megawatt facility was severely damaged by landslides in July 1993.

Japan: Hashimoto Meets Brazilian Parliamentary Delegation

OW0304065996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told a Brazilian congressional delegation Wednesday [3 April] that he hopes Japan and Brazil will enjoy closer relations through exchanges between the two countries' parliamentarians, government officials said.

Hashimoto expressed the hope during a meeting with the delegation from both chambers of the Brazilian Parliament, led by National Congress President Luiz Eduardo Magalhaes.

The delegation arrived in Japan on Monday at the invitation of leaders of the both houses of the Japanese Diet and is scheduled to leave the country April 8.

Japan: Tokyo Urges U.S. Flexibility in Insurance Talks 'Impasse'

OW0504041596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0326 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo said Friday [5 April] he hopes the United States will show a flexible stance to break an impasse at talks on the liberalization of the Japanese insurance market.

At a news conference, Kubo said the two countries are now continuing efforts to settle the issue at a working level.

Kubo said he recently received a letter from U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, in which Rubin requested that U.S. negotiators meet with Takatoshi Kato, vice finance minister for international affairs, to push the insurance talks forward.

Kubo said he has instructed Kato to hold talks at Rubin's request.

At talks with Rubin in January and March, Kubo said Japan has been steadily implementing the 1994 bilateral insurance accord, while flexibly coping with U.S. requests, the finance minister said.

Kubo said he has told Rubin that the U.S. for its part should show a flexible stance.

Japan and the U.S. are now at loggerheads over measures taken by Tokyo under the accord to liberalize its insurance market.

At the center of the issue is the scope of the so-called "third sector" products to be handled by life and nonlife insurance subsidiaries of Japanese insurers.

The sector covers insurance policies against sickness, accidents and nursing, where foreign companies are strong.

Insurance is one of the four priority sectors the U.S. hopes to see progress before President Bill Clinton visits Japan on April 16-18.

The three other areas are air cargo, film and semiconductors. In late March, the two countries reached an accord on the air cargo sector.

Japan: Hashimoto, Kato To Work for Early Passage of Budget

OW0404141196 Tokyo KYODO in English
1359 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Koichi Kato, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), agreed Thursday [4 April] evening to work closely to win an early passage of the fiscal 1996 state budget, officials said.

During the closely followed meeting at a hotel which lasted nearly two and a half hours, the two leaders confirmed a "common destiny" in achieving the objective before U.S. President Bill Clinton's April 16-18 state visit to Japan.

The meeting was the first between the two since January, and political analysts said it was intended to mend their alleged rift over a number of issues.

Kato, who is under pressure to testify about his alleged receipt of 10 million yen from a bankrupt steel frame company, met with Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama on Sunday to iron out differences, party officials said.

During the meeting with Hashimoto, who is also LDP president, Kato briefed the premier on his talks with Kajiyama, the chief government spokesman.

The premier vowed to aggressively tackle the issue of U.S. military bases in Okinawa and to prepare fully for his upcoming summit talks with Clinton, the officials said.

Kato later told reporters that the opposition camp's request for his Diet testimony on the alleged political contribution and the "jusen" housing loan liquidation plan did not come up during his talks with Hashimoto.

The Diet on March 29 approved a stopgap budget, which covers the period from Monday through May 20, to keep the government going for 50 days in the absence of the full fiscal 1996 budget program.

The parliamentary standoff focuses on a government plan to use 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money to help ride out the "jusen" crisis.

Japan: EPA Chief Expects No Change in Easy Monetary Policy

OW0504044696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0335 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — The head of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Friday [5 April] he expects the Bank of Japan to keep its easy monetary stance despite the recent remark by BOJ Governor Yasuo Matsushita in favor of higher interest rates.

Matsushita's comments are "general views, not meaning acceptance of higher interest rates," EPA Director General Shusei Tanaka said at a press conference.

Matsushita said Wednesday the uptrend of long-term interest rates is "natural," a remark sending 10-year government bonds lower on that day's bond market.

Tanaka also said, "I don't think recent movements of interest rates will affect the trend of economic recovery."

On three finance-related bills, which involve the use of taxpayers' money for liquidating failed credit unions, Tanaka said he hopes the bills will be approved as originally drafted.

Japan: Coalition, BOJ Agree on Need To Change Banking Law

OW0504120496 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Ruling coalition members charged with proposing reforms of the Finance Ministry and officials of the Bank of Japan (BOJ) agreed Friday [5 April] on the need to review legislation governing the central bank's activities, coalition officials said.

BOJ Gov. Yasuo Matsushita agreed with the Diet members that the BOJ Law, enacted in 1942, should be amended in line with current economic and financial conditions.

After the meeting at the central bank, Shigeru Ito, head of the coalition team, told reporters that current debate on reforming the law must produce real results while past efforts produced little progress.

Politicians will exercise leadership in carrying out financial reforms, he added.

The tripartite coalition wants to revise the BOJ Law in order to increase the central bank's independence from the Finance Ministry as part of an overhaul of the financial administration system.

The coalition team is to report on financial reforms, including those of the central bank and the ministry, by the end of April, for discussion by the coalition parties after the "Golden Week" holiday period in early May.

Japan: 3.5 Trillion Yen in Loans Bought by Credit Body in FY95

OW0504121796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — The total principal of bad loans purchased from financial institutions in fiscal 1995 by a specially constituted debt-collecting body totaled 3,577.4 billion yen, down 11 percent from fiscal 1994, the institution said Friday [5 April].

The cumulative amount of bad loan principal bought by the Cooperative Credit Purchasing Co. amounted to 12,135.4 billion yen by the March 31 end of fiscal 1995, it said.

The company, created by private financial institutions to help facilitate disposal of their problem loans, started operations in March 1993.

It buys bad loans from financial institutions at a discount and recovers money by selling land originally put up as collateral.

An official of the debt-collecting body said the decrease in the fiscal 1995 purchase amount indicates that financial institutions have almost completed disposal of their problem loans.

Analysts, however, said there is a possibility that the amount of bad loans turned over to the organization will increase again if big customers at seven troubled "jusen" housing loan companies go bankrupt in the process of recovering loans made by the companies.

Under a government-brokered scheme, the jusen companies, which are virtually bankrupt due to a huge burden of bad loans, will be liquidated with the help of taxpayers' money.

In exchange for the introduction of public money, the scheme calls for maximum efforts to recover loans made by the mortgage companies. In many cases, big customers at the jusen companies are also borrowing money from banks.

The organization said it purchased the 3,577.4 billion yen worth of bad loans for 1,182.3 billion yen, or 33 percent of the principal.

The gap of more than 2 trillion yen between the aggregate principal and the actual purchase price reflects the prolonged sluggishness in the real estate market.

The amount of loans recovered by the organization through sales of land offered as collateral, meanwhile, came to 259.9 billion yen in fiscal 1995, nearly twice the fiscal 1994 level.

But the cumulative amount of recovered money totaled only 431.6 billion yen, showing that the bulk of loans purchased by the organization remains untouched.

The organization plans to accelerate recovery of bad loans through the disclosure of information on the collateral real estate, the active use of auctions and loan securitization.

Japan: Foreign Yen Loans Hit Record High in FY95

OW0404140796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO — The yen loans that Japan agreed to extend during fiscal 1995 hit a record 1,115 billion yen, up 31 percent from the previous year, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [4 April].

The previous record was 1,061.1 billion yen agreed in fiscal 1988, according to the ministry.

It was also the first time in five years that the amount has exceeded 1 trillion yen, the ministry said.

Yen loans are long-term direct loans offered by the Japanese Government for other countries at low rates, and accounts for a major part of the loans in Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In fiscal 1995, which closed Sunday, the agreed yen credit increased for all areas of the world. Particularly notable was a total of 128 billion yen for vietnam, which received no yen loans the year before.

By region, the agreed yen credit for Asian countries increased to 894.3 billion yen from the previous year's 768.2 billion yen. The amount accounted for 78.6 percent of the total, down from 87.8 percent in the year before.

For Middle East countries, where peace talks have progressed, the amount rose three-fold to 110.3 billion yen from 34.6 billion yen the year before. For the Latin American region, it doubled to 76.5 billion yen.

By purpose, 63.8 percent of the total was for economic infrastructure development projects, while 13.3 percent was for projects in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries fields, and 13.5 percent was for social infrastructure projects such as education, the ministry added.

Japan To 'Scrap' Foreign Capital Rule in Telecommunications

OW0504043096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Japan will scrap in the near future a regulation that limits foreign capital participation in telecommunication businesses, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino said Friday [5 April].

Speaking to reporters after the day's cabinet meeting, Hino said Japan will also call for similar deregulations at a World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting on telecommunications, scheduled later this month.

Under the current rule, Japan limits foreign capital participation in telecommunication businesses to less than one-third of the total capital.

Hino said it is the time to remove the rule and increase transparency in regulations in the business area.

As for the timing of the scrapping of foreign capital regulation, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said if reactions at the WTO meeting are favorable, it would swiftly proceed with law changes.

Japan: Sales of Portable Phones Double in One Year

OW0504103796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — The accumulated number of portable phones, including automobile phones, sold in Japan as of the end of March more than doubled from the year-before level to 10,203,700, industry sources said Friday [5 April].

On the back of intensified price competition among telephone companies, a wide range of customers, from salaried workers to housewives, bought portable phones in the past year, resulting in one in 10 people having portable phones, the sources said.

New subscriptions during fiscal 1995 to March 31 totaled 5,872,300, hitting a record for a yearlong period, they said.

The sources attributed the sharp increase to a series of cuts in new subscription fees, monthly basic rates and telephone charges, as well as to lower prices for telephone receivers.

In April last year, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry forecast that 12.5 million portable phones will be sold by the year 2000. The sources said the target is certain to be reached much earlier.

NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc. (NTT DOCOMO), the nation's top portable phone service provider, lowered its new subscription fee to 9,000 yen, about one-fourth of the level from two years ago, while cutting telephone charges by a maximum 42 percent last April. Other competitors followed suit.

Some telephone receivers are priced below 20,000 yen, compared with 40,000 to 50,000 yen two years ago.

The price falls have encouraged individuals in their 20s and 30s to buy portable phones, said officials of Nippon Idou Tsushin Corp.

The percentage of women using portable phones has increased over a two-year period to 20 percent from a much lower figure, officials of the Tu-Ka Cellular Group said.

Meanwhile, the less expensive personal handy-phone system (PHS), whose services started last July, marked a monthly sales record in March with 478,000 units, the sources said.

The accumulated number of PHS sales totaled 1,499,000 units as of the end of March, they said.

Japan: Hashimoto Urges Ministers To Attend G-7 'Jobs Summit'

OW0504060996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0521 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday [5 April] both the labor minister and the minister of international trade and industry should attend the next jobs summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations, government officials said.

Hashimoto urged Labor Minister Takanobu Nagai at a cabinet meeting to arrange with Trade Minister Shunpei Tsukahara to attend the upcoming summit, the officials said.

Nagai attended a summit meeting of economy and labor ministers from the G-7 nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, held in Lille, France, on April 1-2 to discuss job-creation policies.

The venue and timing of the next jobs summit will be decided at a G-7 summit meeting in Lyon, France, in June and will likely be held in Japan in 1997 or 1998.

Japan: Trade Ministry Chiefs Report Mild Economic Recovery

OW0504081196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Regional trade and industry bureau chiefs of the Trade Ministry reported Friday [5 April] that local economies are on the whole mildly improving, although there are regional differences in the degree of their improvement, ministry officials said.

At a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara, trade bureau heads of the southwestern main island of Kyushu and the western island of Shikoku presented brighter pictures for their regions than were reported for other areas, they said.

The Kyushu economy has been benefiting from public works spending, while strong electric machinery and paper-pulp industries have led the Shikoku economy, the officials noted.

Meanwhile, the bureau chief of the greater Tokyo area only said the economy is moving out of a standstill. The recovery there is subdued because of heavy influence from depressed financial and real estate sectors, the officials explained.

A recovery in the Chugoku area surrounding Hiroshima is also lagging behind the national average because production is moving back and forth amid the sluggish performance of the mainstay automotive and steel industries, they said.

Japan: Land Agency Draws Up New Disaster Reaction Plan

OW0404132796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO — The National Land Agency has mapped out a new disaster prevention plan designed to improve cooperation with other central and local governments and agencies in the event of major earthquakes and other disasters, agency officials said Thursday [4 April].

The agency revised the present plan in hopes of strengthening communication among government offices in the event of disaster in line with the basic national plan concerning disaster prevention and post-disaster steps, which was reviewed after the great Hanshin earthquake in early 1995.

The quake hit Kobe and its vicinity on Jan. 17 last year, killing more than 6,000 people.

Both the central government and local governments in the quake-battered area came under fire for reacting slowly to the killer quake and its aftermath.

Under the plan, officials of the agency's Disaster Prevention Bureau will be urged to go to the agency to contact the Prime Minister's Official Residence and other ministries concerned in case an earthquake measuring 5 or greater on the Japanese intensity scale of 7 occurs or a tidal wave warning is issued.

The director of the bureau will be required to stay at the office in case an earthquake with an intensity of 5 or greater takes place in Tokyo or one with an intensity of 6 or greater hits other areas, the agency officials said.

Under the new plan, the agency will send an advance team to damaged areas in preparation for setting up an on-the-spot governmental office in the event of a major disaster.

Japan: Radioactive Tailings To Be Stored in Tottori Prefecture

OW0504111896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tottori, Japan, April 5 KYODO — The Governmental Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. (Donen) and a precinct in Tottori Prefecture, near the Sea of Japan coast, reached a basic agreement Friday [5 April] for the removal of radioactive uranium tailings within the precinct boundary.

The agreement, for the disposal of the tailings in Katamo Precinct in the town of Togo, ends a protracted eight years of negotiations.

Under the agreement, Donen will remove 3,000 cubic meters of tailings and put them in long-term storage in Tottori Prefecture on the border with Okayama Prefecture at Ningyo Pass.

The agreement allows for the disposal of the tailings in a concrete pit within two years, subsequent to Donen gaining consent from the prefecture and the town of Misasa, which is just inside the Tottori border, for use of the land, officials said.

The 3,000 cubic meters of tailings is the amount identified in a document signed by Donen and the precinct three years ago as being highly radioactive in the some 16,000 cubic meters of tailings in mountainous terrain within the Katamo Precinct boundary.

The problem of the tailings from the old uranium mine near Ningyo pass came to light in 1988.

Donen responded by banning entry to the area and constructing barriers to prevent landslides, but representatives for Katamo residents wanted the tailings removed as quickly as possible.

The Okayama Prefectural governor opposed removal of the tailings to Ningyo Pass, but a breakthrough came in 1990 with an initial agreement for their removal and the 1993 document confirming the terms of the agreement.

Japan: Atomic Power Plants Run at 80% Capacity in FY95

OW0504090696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO — Japan's 49 atomic power plants operated at an average 80.2 percent of capacity in fiscal 1995 to March 31, marking the first time in which the tally topped 80 percent, the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said Friday [5 April].

The capacity utilization rose from the fiscal 1994 level of 76.6 percent because regular inspection periods became shorter thanks to a decrease in pipe replacements and other engineering works, agency officials said.

Boiling-water reactors operated at 82.5 percent of capacity, while the ratio was 77.6 percent for pressurized-water reactors and 60.4 percent for gas-cooled reactors, according to the officials.

North Korea

DPRK Daily Condemns 'Dangerous' U.S. 'Tougher Policy' Call

SK0504040896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0355 GMT 5 Apr 96

["U.S. Conservatives Urged To Ponder on Consequence of Their Acts" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — U.S. Republican conservatives are calling for "tougher policy" towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and for the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue, while finding fault with the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement.

Commenting on the fact, NODONG SINMUN today urges them to give much thought to what their deed may cause in view of the general interests of the United States, transcending the factional interests.

Their call for "tougher policy" is very dangerous because it has come when the South Korean puppets have apparently made up their mind to launch a real war and what remains to be done is to trigger the war.

We have made clear that we cannot but take countermeasures to cope with the prevailing situation.

Our countermeasures will not be confined only to the South Korean puppets.

As for inter-Korean dialogue, we have stated more than once that we have no dialogue partner now. The traitor Kim Yong-sam, a thorough-paced separatist and a human dreg, cannot be our dialogue partner.

If the Republican conservatives continue crying for "tough policy" and encouraging the South Korean puppets to confrontation with the North, the tense Korean peninsula will be in a touch-and-go situation. Then, it will adversely affect the U.S. itself.

And if they impede the improvement of bilateral relations between the DPRK and the U.S. with insistence on inter-Korean dialogue, the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement will remain a document illustrative of the U.S. disgrace.

It is not the DPRK but the U.S. that will be harmed by the conservatives.

DPRK: Second Message to ROK on N-S Contact Reported

SK0504085296 Pyongyang Radio Pyongyang in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 April, in regards to the holding of the fourth North-South contact in Beijing, the head of our side's delegation to the North-South contact in Beijing sent a second message by facsimile to the head of the South Korean delegation.

The full text of the message reads as follows:

To Yi Sok-chae, head of the South Korean delegation to the North-South contact in Beijing:

As you know, the two sides held North-South talks for economic cooperation in Beijing in June 1995, and agreed to continue this cooperation following the initial of cooperation.

The Beijing agreement, solemnly signed and effectuated by both sides and recognized at home and abroad, cannot be unilaterally abrogated or nullified by any side. During the third and last contact, none of the sides agreed to the breakdown of the contact, promising instead to continue the contact.

Recently, officials concerned from your side publicly talked as if the fourth round of contacts could not be held because we did not make an official request for a North-South contact. In particular, on 29 February a high-level official on your side stated that our side had made no official request for North-South dialogue since the suspension of the third set of contact in Beijing.

Our 20 March official proposal [chongsik chean] to hold the fourth North-South contact was a positive initiative [chudongjogin palgi] for implementing the Beijing agreement as well as a magnanimous measure [aryang innun chochi] that took the official position repeatedly expressed by your side's high-level authorities into full consideration.

However, in a recent message to us by facsimile, your side raised such irrelevant issues as the suspension of slander against the South and the holding of talks between the South and North Korean authorities on the Korean peninsula, taking no regard of the Beijing agreement and remaining indifferent to the fourth North-South contact. This is a grave violation of the Beijing agreement and faithless behavior.

As for the issue of slander raised by your side, officials on our side have so far not slandered the South, but high-level officials on your side have directly been engaged in systematic slanderous propaganda against the North and have devised every possible scheme to agitate us. Apart from this stark reality, I make clear that the holding of talks on the Korean peninsula between the North and South Korean authorities is not within the competence of the chief delegates of the two sides.

If your side truly intends to sit face to face with us based on the principle of independence from a national viewpoint, we feel [injonghamnida] your side must withdraw all unreasonable demands [modun pudanghan chujangdul] without further delay, and must unconditionally come to the fourth Beijing contact, observing the North-South Beijing agreement and mutual fidelity.

[Signed] Chon Kum-chol, head of the North side's delegation to the Beijing contact between North and South Korea

[Dated] 5 April 1996

DPRK: ROK 'Nuclear Development' Said Aggravating Situation

SK0504045896 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0855 GMT 4 Apr 96

[Unattributed talk: "Puppets' Maneuvers To Reinforce Heavy-Water Reactors Aimed at Nuclear Development"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kim Yong-sam ring has been perpetrating recently the grave act of further aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula by clinging to its maneuvers to develop new heavy-water reactors. At a time when we have discontinued the graphite moderated reactors operations and are on our way to replace them with light-water reactors, the Kim Yong-sam ring has developed anew heavy-water reactors, plutonium-extracting reactors, which are capable of developing nuclear weapons, and is rushing to augment them.

Because of the Kim Yong-sam ring's development of new heavy-water reactors in South Korea, where some 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed, a dangerous situation is being created on the Korean peninsula in which a nuclear holocaust could take place again.

As already has been reported, South Korea has enormous amounts of plutonium extracted from the heavy-water reactors brought from Canada and operated since 1983, and are capable of producing some 380 nuclear bombs with the plutonium. This notwithstanding, the Kim Yong-sam ring is again carrying out a project to build three heavy- water reactors.

Foolishly enough, the Kim Yong-sam ring is attempting to mislead the public opinion at home and abroad by talking as if the development and construction of these heavy-water reactors were for commercial purposes. But, this is a foolish remark.

If the development and construction of these heavy-water reactors were for commercial purposes, why does the Kim Yong-sam ring develop and increase anew the heavy-water reactors which are being disposed as waste in the world because they are of the lowest economic value among atomic piles, instead of selecting atomic piles which are of high economic value?

The Kim Yong-sam ring's acceleration in developing and augmenting heavy-water reactors is aimed at developing nuclear weapons. The Kim Yong-sam ring is rushing to extract more plutonium. The graveness of the Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuvers to develop and increase heavy- water reactors is more serious because the maneuvers are being perpetrated, gearing to advance in the development of nuclear weapons.

The Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuvers to develop and increase heavy-water reactors have evoked serious concerns from the public opinion at home and abroad. This is because the Kim Yong-sam ring's imprudent act will become the source of blocking a solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and creating a new nuclear holocaust there.

First of all, the Kim Yong-sam ring's development and increase of heavy-water reactors has become a hotbed creating new difficulties in solving the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula. Instead of putting into waste the heavy-water reactors, reactors which extract plutonium, in South Korea the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique is developing and increasing the heavy-water reactors which are directly linked to nuclear development at a time when our graphite moderated reactors have been frozen and are being replaced with light-water reactors. This is a challenge to and a provocation of the solution to the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

Such an imprudent act by the South Korean puppets cannot but create new barriers in implementing the North-South Agreement and in solving the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique's development and increase of heavy-water reactors has become another cause aggravating distrust and confrontation between the North and the South.

As the world knows well, the Kim Yong-sam ring has not only made the North-South joint declaration of denuclearization a mere scrap of paper but has also concocted plots against us and viciously hindered the DPRK-U.S. talks held to solve the nuclear issue as the shock brigade for the imperialists' smear nuclear commotions designed to crush [opsal] our socialism. Thus, it has led the relations between the North and the South to an acute confrontation.

The puppets' development and increase of heavy-water reactors today is a calculated and deliberate maneuver designed to aggravate tensions between the North and the South and, thus, to lead them to a nuclear war.

The dangerous nature of the Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuvers to develop and increase heavy-water reactors also lies in that they have become the apple that may instigate a new nuclear development race in the Far East.

In the Far East, Japan's securing of a large amount of plutonium and its development of a high-speed breeder reactor has become the target of protest of the world. The fact that getting ahead of this, the Kim Yong-sam ring is developing and increasing heavy-water reactors in a bid to develop nuclear weapons is a grave criminal act which brings the dark clouds of nuclear war to the Far East and Asia and which drives the situation in the Far East into an acute one.

The Kim Yong-sam ring is indeed unprecedentedly vicious nuclear maniacs. As long as the nuclear maniacs, like traitor Kim Yong-sam and his stooges, are left as they are, the entire nation cannot escape a nuclear holocaust. For the survival of the nation and for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone it is imperative to first remove the Kim Yong-sam ring's nuclear maniacs.

DPRK: SPA Chairman Remarks on Armistice Agreement Issue

SK0504041796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 5 Apr 96

["Provokers Will Be Annihilated, Declares SPA Chairman" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — If the enemies dare encroach upon an inch of our land and a blade of grass in our country, our People's Army and people with the conviction of sure victory will take resolute self-defensive measures to annihilate them, declared Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], on Thursday.

In his report at a Pyongyang meeting marking the third anniversary of the publication of the great leader President Kim Il-song's historic work "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country," he said:

Today when the South Korean puppets' provocation of a war against the North is a question of time, we cannot but take proper countermeasures.

Due to confrontation and war moves the Kim Yong-sam group have intensified with the backing of ultra-right conservatives of the United States, the situation of the Korean peninsula has been driven to the brink of war. With the danger of war coming from the South, the war in the peninsula is not a question of if, but when.

Peace in the peninsula and its peaceful reunification are valuable for us, but we never beg for them. This is an unshakable will of ours.

DPRK: More on Yang Hyong-sop's Armistice Agreement Comments

SK0504035196 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Pyongyang report meeting marking the third anniversary of the publication of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's historic work "The 10-point Program of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" was held at the People's Palace of Culture on 4 April. [passage omitted on description of the venue]

Entering the rostrum were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; and responsible functionaries of the party, government, social and religious groups. [passage omitted on list of other guests from Japan]

Comrade Yang Hyong-sop delivered a commemorative report.

[Begin Yang recording] Comrades, today, all people across the country are united in one heart around the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, uplifting the red flag and vigorously accelerating the general march toward socialism. At an emotional time when our 70 million fellow countrymen have actively risen to the pannational reunification movement to make this year a year of peace and great national unity, and to mark a turning point in the fatherland reunification, we are marking the significant third anniversary of the publication of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's immortal classical work "The 10-point Program of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country." [passage omitted on review of the 1993 situation, when the 10-point program was announced, and when the DPRK withdrew form the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] It was the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] who saved our nation by declaring a semi-war status. [passage omitted on more background of the 10-point program]

The great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song worked hard on the idea of achieving the historical cause of reunification with the nation's independent force, and personally wrote "The 10-point Program of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country." [passage omitted elaborating on the 10-point program] The great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's 10-point program is the most brilliant immortal achievement in the history of the fatherland's reunification.

The incumbent South Korean ruling camp, being manipulated by foreign force, used the fictitious North Korean nuclear issue to completely freeze the North-South dialogue, which had continued even under the military dictatorship. The Kim Yong-sam ring's antinational acts are seen from its vicious maneuver to block the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations. [passage omitted on connection between the 10-point program and peace on the Korean peninsula]

The issue of replacing the old armistice system with a new peace-guaranteeing system can only be resolved between the parties directly involved in the Korean Armistice Agreement, that is, us and the United States. The South Korean authorities are foolish to talk about some duty of the Armistice Agreement and a peace-guaranteeing system between the North and South. If the South Korean rulers are truly interested in guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula, they first have to stop the reckless commotion of military confrontation that brings about the risk of a new war.

Today, the South Korean rulers beg that U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons remain in South Korea, and are unceasingly conducting joint military exercises to invade compatriots in league with foreign forces. They purchased a large volume of war equipment and massacre weapons from foreign countries, and viciously committed military provocations on the Military Demarcation Line to threaten us. They spur on the nuclear weapons development, which has been already underway, and try to lay new grave obstacles to the resolution of the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the United States and to North-South relations. They do not hesitate to make a dangerous provocation by building a large-scale nuclear complex right under the Military Demarcation Line in

Kosong County in the South Korean Kangwon Province. Instigated by the U.S. ultra-rightist conservative forces, the Kim Yong-sam ring adopts a confrontation and war maneuver, driving the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

Actually, due to the war threat from the South, a war on the Korean peninsula is out of question, only the timing is the remaining question. [silchero, chigum chosonbandoesonun namuro puto millyo onun chonjaeng wihomuro hayo kugosi onje tojinunga hanun ku sijomi munjero toego isulppun chonjaengi ironandanun kosun uimunui yojiga opke toeosumnida] Peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula is valuable, but our firm will is that we will not beg for it. Under today's circumstances, in which the South Korean puppets' provocation of a northward aggression is a matter of time, we cannot but seek due countermeasures. If the enemies dare touch an inch of our land or a clump of our grass, our People's Army and people, who are filled with faith in certain victory and enemy-defeating spirit, will smash them with a resolute self-defense measure. [applause]

As long as the South Korean puppets' confrontation and war maneuvers continue, solid peace on the Korean peninsula cannot be guaranteed, peaceful reunification cannot be expected. The South Korean puppets should send home the puppet aggressive force and nuclear weapons in South Korea, and should stop the reckless provocation maneuver that aggravates the tense situation.

If the United States truly wants peace on the Korean peninsula, it should respond as soon as possible to our concrete proposal for establishing a new peace-guaranteeing system. [passage omitted on justification of the peace agreement proposal]

As to the North-South dialogue, as we already stated in the letter adopted at the joint meeting of the political parties and social organizations of the Republic held at end of January, we are prepared to talk to anyone of the other side who is truly interested in reunification, and we will not question their past. If the South Korean authorities should belatedly want to come forward to the North-South dialogue, they should apologize for the crime committed during our mishap [Kim Il-song's death] to the extent that we can accept, and should abolish the National Security Law and other legal and institutional devices that interferes with dialogue and reunification. [passage omitted hailing the 10-point program]

Our party and the Republic Government will uphold the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's great achievement for reunification, and will devote all efforts to the end to implement the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country under the leadership of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. [passage omitted on slogans] [end recording]

DPRK: 'War Maneuvers' Reportedly Staged Against North

SK0504040296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0351 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppet marine corps staged war manoeuvres together with the U.S. imperialist Marine Corps in the areas of the East Sea [Sea of Japan] of Korea for more than 20 days, a Seoul-based radio report said.

Included in the war gamble were atomic and chemical war training and firing exercises under different names.

And the South Korean puppets, in league with the U.S. imperialists, staged joint aerial war manoeuvres against the North in the sky above the areas of Wonju, Asan bay and Sosan peninsula on April 2 and 3, according to military sources. Mobilized there were more than 920 fighter planes including those belonging to the South Korean puppet air force and the U.S. Seventh Air Force and carrier-based assault planes belonging to the U.S. Pacific fleet.

On the 2nd, the puppets sent scores of fighter planes to the sky above Pochon and Kapyong in the central sector of the front and to the sky above the west sea off Sosan peninsula as part of the aggressive war exercise "Hoguk 96" and made them stage aerial support strike exercises for ground and marine attack units.

That day, transport planes and 20 odd transport helicopters of the puppet army which were flown to the sky above the areas of the central sector of the front staged an exercise for an operation of airlifting "commandoes" simulating infiltration into the depth of the North.

The South Korean puppets also brought more than 1,500 armed soldiers, recoilless guns and large-calibre machine guns in the areas near the Military Demarcation Line from April 1 to 3 and gravely threatened the safety of soldiers of the Korean People's Army, whipping up a war fever.

DPRK Daily Denounces ROK 'Traitor's' Trial Remarks

SK0504073596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0359 GMT 5 Apr 96

["NODONG SINMUN on Traitor No Tae-u's Remarks" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — The traitor No Tae-u of South Korea denied his crimes with such answers as "I don't know" and "I cannot remember" in the fourth trial as he did in the previous trials. He claimed that the December 12 military coup and the Kwangju massacre were "caused by anxiety about the North's possible provocation."

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN today views his remarks as a shameless deception, misrepresentation of the fact which is aimed at justifying his never-to-be-condoned crimes against the country and the nation.

The daily continues:

No has said in the same vein with the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is hell bent on confrontation and war moves against the North, raising a hue and cry over the fictitious "military provocation by the North." It goes to show that No has been acting according to the scenario written by Kim Yong-sam.

Kim Yong-sam has had no intention to punish Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

It is nobody's secret that Kim Yong-sam promised to the two murderers to release them as early as possible, urging them to keep the 1992 "presidential election" fund in secrecy, while the two former dictators pledged to meet his demand in the hope of being protected and released at an early date.

This is why Kim Yong-sam has procrastinated judgement for the two chief murderers in every conceivable way. It was with his backing that No said the coup and massacre were aimed at coping with "the North's provocation."

We will never tolerate the Kim Yong-sam group, who have used in the anti-North campaign even the chief culprits of the Kwangju bloodbath, who should have been punished severely. The latest crime of the puppets will be included in their blackest crimes for which we will make them pay dearly.

DPRK: ROK University Protests Over Student Death Reported

SK0504100796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0919 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — More than 10,000 students staged a demonstration in Seoul on Thursday [4 April] after bidding their last farewell to No Su-sok, a Seoul-based radio reported.

The demonstrators urged the traitor Kim Yong-sam again to make an apology for the murder of the student, declaring that his funeral would be postponed indefinitely until the incident is made clear.

That day, some 40 students affiliated with the "patriotic youth gathering" attacked the Taegu city office building of the "New Korea Party" in protest against the murder of the student by the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique.

They threw firebombs to the building, punished riot policemen and destroyed a guard post.

On Wednesday, an estimated 3,000 students, including Ewha Woman's University coeds, who are affiliated with the Seoul District Federation of University Student Councils met to strongly urge the "government" authorities to take relevant measures, saying that No Su-sok was killed by fascist police in the brutal suppression of a demonstration.

On the same day, the student council of the graduate school of Yonsei University announced that about 1,000 postgraduate students and assistant teachers were beginning a protest against the murder of No in token of condolences over his death, while the graduate school of Sogang University declared that some 300 assistant teachers would boycott their duty in protest against the university's unreasonable acts.

DPRK Sends Second Message on Beijing Contact Proposal

SK0504033096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0318 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — Chon Kum-chol, head of the North side delegation to the Beijing contact between the North and South of Korea, sent a second message to his South Korean counterpart, Yi Sok-chae, by fax today, urging him to hold the fourth round of contact in Beijing.

The message says:

As you know, both sides held North-South talks for economic cooperation in Beijing in June last year and agreed to continue this cooperation following the first set of cooperation.

The Beijing agreement solemnly signed and effectuated by both sides and recognised at home and abroad cannot be abrogated or nullified unilaterally by any side. At the third round of contact, none of the sides admitted the breakdown of the contact but they both promised to continue the contact.

Recently, officials concerned of your side talked as if the fourth round of contact could not be held because the North did not make an official request for North-South contact. A high-level official of your side on February 29 said the North side had not made an official request for North-South dialogue since the third contact in Beijing.

We officially proposed on March 20 to hold the fourth contact between the North and the South. This was a positive initiative for the implementation of the Beijing agreement and a magnanimous measure which took into full account the official position the high-level authorities of your side had expressed time and again.

Your side, however, sent us a message by fax, raising such irrelevant issues as suspension of slanders about the South and "convocation of talks between authorities from the South and North of the Korean peninsula" while ignoring the Beijing agreement and remaining indifferent to the fourth round of contact. This is a gross violation of the Beijing agreement and a faithless behavior.

As for "slanders" raised by your side, officials of the North side have not slandered the South so far, though high-level officials of your side directly vilified the North in a systematic way and resort to every conceivable trick provoking the North. Apart from this stark situation, I make clear that "convocation of talks between authorities from the South and North of the Korean peninsula" is not within the competence of the chief delegates of both sides.

We consider that if your side really wants to have contact on the principle of independence from a national viewpoint, it must withdraw all its unreasonable arguments, though belatedly, and come out to the fourth round of contact in Beijing unconditionally, true to the North-South agreement in Beijing and mutual confidence.

DPRK: Chinese Provincial Friendship Delegation Arrives

SK0504112296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — A Liaoning provincial friendship economic trade delegation of China led by Vice-Governor Liu Kezhen arrived here today.

They were met at Pyongyang Railway Station by Kwon Yun-ik, vice-chairman of the Nampo Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, and a minister-counseller of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang.

DPRK: Japanese Athletes, Thai Delegation Visit Kumsusan

SK0504080996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0347 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — A delegation of Korean athletes in Japan headed by Paek Chong-won, chairman of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan, the 258th short-term home-visiting group of Koreans in Japan and a delegation of the Loxley Public Co., Ltd. of Thailand paid homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song on April 4 at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where he is preserved in state.

Head of the delegation Paek Chong-won vowed to believe in the respected General Kim Chong-il only no matter which way the wind may blow in the future and to devote his all to the work for advancing the Korean-style socialism and reunifying the country, true to the behests of President Kim Il-song.

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop, Yugoslav Delegation Visit Kumsusan

SK0504081296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0343 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — The visiting delegation of the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia led by Speaker of its Chamber of Citizens Radoman Bozovic [spelling of name as received] on April 4 paid homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where he is preserved in state.

It was accompanied by Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, officials concerned and Yugoslav Ambassador E.P. to Korea Ljubomir Ojukic.

The head of the delegation wrote in the visitors' book that his delegation paid high tribute to the cause of His Excellency Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, and prayed for his immortality.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il's Visit to KPA Sports Team Reported

SK0404233696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], has given an on-the-spot guidance to the KPA 25 April National Defense Sports Team. The great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and the supreme commander of the KPA, gave an on-the-spot guidance to the KPA 25 April National Defense Sports Team on 2 April.

Comrades Kye Ung-tae, Choe Tae-pok, Kim Ki-nam, and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, were present. Comrade Cho Myong-nok, KPA vice marshal and director of the KPA General Political Bureau; KPA Vice Marshal Comrade Yi Ha-il, Comrades Kim Myong-kuk, Kim Ha-kyu, and Hyon Chol-hae, KPA generals; and Colonel General Comrade Pak Chae-kyong accompanied the group.

The KPA 25 April National Defense Sports Team has upheld the task given by the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il during his on-the-spot guidance on 20 December 1994. In less than over a year, they achieved the innovation of renewing the base of national defense sports by adding various facilities and equipment for national defense sports.

Comrade Kim Chong-il inspected the sports team facilities, including an electronic target shooting gallery, military pentathlon hurdle race course, training room, open air shooting field, and large-caliber rifle shooting field, then inquired about the new facilities and equipment, as well as the training programs of the sports team. Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed great satisfaction with the excellent modern facilities and equipment, which enabled the team to highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance by conducting various national defense sports training with our own facilities and equipment. He also commended the team for methodically keeping the surroundings clean.

Comrade Kim Chong-il spoke highly of the KPA 25 April National Defense Sports Team, saying that the team is a meritorious team which not only fostered numerous outstanding players, who glorified the chuche fatherland at the First World Military Games and various international games, but also has greatly contributed to the development of the country's national defense sports. Comrade Kim Chong-il said that in our country, where the land is divided and facing constant confrontation with the imperialists, developing national defense sports is important, and added that not only the players, but all the people as well, should actively participate in national defense sports so as to firmly prepare themselves for national defense.

Comrade Kim Chong-il stressed shooting skills saying that the sports team should concentrate on shooting games, which match the predestined and militant character of our People's Army. Comrade Kim Chong-il asked the team to improve the sports facilities so that the players can participate in any international games. He also showed deep interests in afforestation and asked the team management to make the place greener and cleaner.

Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed his faith and expectation that all players of the team will have the faith in sure victory and strengthen training, so as to achieve proud victory in every international game and unsparingly demonstrate the heroic spirit our Army, which has grown up as a one-a-match-for-a-hundred matchless strong Army. All functionaries and players of the KPA 25 April National Defense Sports Team could not resist the heartfelt gratitude to the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who visited the team for the 52d time and gave valuable teachings for the development of national defense sports and boundless love and mercy. Bearing deep in their hearts the honor and pride of being the fighters of the great general, they were filled with the burning resolution to more thoroughly implement the party's sports policy, show off the wisdom and dignity of the Kim Il-song nation all over the world, and actively contribute to the development of the country's national defense sports.

DPRK: Korean Buddhist Federation Supports Peace, Unity

SK0504101296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0933 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Korean Buddhist Federation held an enlarged plenary meeting here today.

The meeting discussed the tasks facing the Buddhists in making 1996 a year of peace and great national unity under the banner of the 10-Point Program of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation.

The most venerable Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhist Federation, made a report before speeches were made at the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the activities conducted by the federation in the last three years under the banner of the "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole

Nation for the Reunification of the Country", which was worked out by the great President Kim Il-song.

It was said at the meeting that the country's situation is strained to the breaking point due to the reckless war manoeuvres of the Kim Yong-sam fascist group and their ruthless crackdown on the patriotic champions of reunification.

The meeting called on the Buddhists in the North, South and overseas to turn out as one in the struggle to reunify the country under the guidance of the great General Kim Chong-il, the lodestar of the country's reunification, and under the banner of the 10-Point Program of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation.

DPRK: SKNDF Urges ROK Students To Overthrow Kim Yong-sam

SK0504101896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0911 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — The director of the Youth and Students Department of the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea [SKNDF] released a statement on April 1 calling upon one million students to turn out in a struggle against the "civilian" dictatorship, according to Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation.

He said that the Kim Yong-sam group's murder of No Su-sok is an open war of genocide against the one million students, adding that blood should be paid for blood.

He went on to say:

Students should change the sorrow at the loss of their dear fellow student into an indignation at the Kim Yong-sam group and develop the already-started struggle into a more powerful one.

They also should bitterly denounce the Kim Yong-sam dictatorial regime for its murderous violence and mount a powerful struggle for the opening to the public of the "presidential election" fund so as to overthrow the tottering "civilian" dictatorial group.

He called upon the patriotic-minded people from all walks of life to take an active part in the just struggle of the students.

DPRK: SKNDF Urges 'Businessmen' To Overthrow Kim Yong-sam

SK0504101996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0930 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA) — The Traders and Industrialists Department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the National Democratic Front of South Korea [SKNDF] published a "letter to minor traders and industrialists" on March 29, as regards the Kim Yong-sam group's sinister scheme to coax small and medium businessmen with the 15th "parliamentary election" approaching, the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

The letter said the Kim Yong-sam regime's advertisement that the key point in running economy for this year is to "save minor businesses" is nothing but one more deceptive trick to attract small and medium traders and industrialists with the "general election" approaching.

Disclosing the fact that the traitor Kim Yong-sam has driven minor enterprises into bankruptcy while lining comprador businessmen's pockets, it said: Last year alone, above 14,000 minor businesses went to bankruptcy.

The way out for minor businessmen is to wage a merciless struggle to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam dictatorial quarters, it held.

It called upon them to turn out as one in the struggle to oust the "civilian" dictatorial regime.

DPRK Editorial Urges Enhancing Party Organizations

962C0042A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 31 Jan 96 p 1

[Editorial: "Enhance the Role of Party Organizations in This Year's Onward March"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Currently, party members and workers all over the country are vigorously waging the concerted struggle to strengthen the political-ideological, economic, and military foundations of our own way of socialism in response to the call of the joint editorial printed in NODONG SINMUN.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "We must effect a new upswing in all aspects of the revolution and construction by holding high the revolutionary banner of the chuche ideology."

Enhancing the militant role of party organizations is the key to victory in the revolution and construction.

Ideology determines all things. When party organizations inspire party members and workers to heroic achievements by vigorously carrying out political work, work with people, with a firm grip on ideology, then they can brilliantly accomplish whatever difficult tasks they may encounter in socialist construction. It is because party organizations at all levels inspired party members and workers into the thoroughgoing implementation of party policies that last year we could firmly consolidate the political and ideological foundations of our own way of socialism and vigorously push forward with socialist construction even under such difficult circumstances.

Party organizations are faced with honorable and weighty tasks this year. This year we have to bring about a revolutionary turnaround in socialist construction by holding the red banner high so that we may authoritatively demonstrate the mettle of the chuche Korea. This demands that party organizations strengthen their militant role.

Party organizations are the political staffs with the responsibilty of leading all the tasks in their respective units. How brilliantly party visions will be translated into reality in every sector and unit depends wholly on the role of party organizations. Only when party organizations at all levels enhance their militant role and move with vigor, is it possible to make the whole country bubble with activities with the result that a great productive upswing in every aspect of socialist construction is achieved. Apart from the task of enhancing the role of party organizations there can be no solution to the problem of how to firmly consolidate wholehearted unity within our party ranks, regarding it as the apple of the eye, nor to the problem of how to thoroughly implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy. When party organizations enhance their militant role, it will solve all problems.

Each time it faced a huge task in the revolutionary struggle and construction, our party could win an impressive victory by means of enhancing the militant role of party organizations. Under the tested leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, the militant role of our party organizations has strengthened as never before.

Party organizations at all levels should push forward with the struggle more vigorously yet to achieve a new upswing in socialist construction, while continually consolidating the successes made in the task to enhance their militant role.

Party organizations should give their primary attention to firmly consolidating the wholehearted unity of the party ranks rallying closely around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Our socialist cause is an invincible one propelled forward by the power of the unity of the leader and the people joined together. Victory in this year's militant endeavors depends on how well we will be able to bring the power of this unity into play.

Party organizations at all levels should conduct ideological education in an aggressive manner, with attention focused on bringing up party members and workers as true loyal subjects and dutiful sons and daughters, so that they may do their utmost giving their all for the sake of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, bearer of the fate of our revolution and its highest brain. Party organizations must continually intensify the ideological education of party members and workers by using vivid factual material in order to implant deep in their minds the rock-firm faith that we owe to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, that we have our own way of socialism which is thrusting forward without a letup and that there is the bright future of the Kim Il-song nation. They should also make the entire party and all of society brim over with the spirit of worshiping the general [Comrade Kim Chong-il] through and through. Party organizations should vigorously carry out the task to learn from the noble features of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme incarnation of communist morals, in order to bring up all party members and workers as true revolutionaries with the chuche-based revolutionary view of ethics implanted in them and make fine communist mores burst into full bloom this year.

In order for party organizations to lead this year's onward drive vigorously, it is also very important to aggressively conduct political work designed to spur party members and workers on to heroic struggle and exploits.

Great indeed is the revolutionary enthusiasm of our party members and workers who have launched as one into the new year's onward drive, holding the red flag high. Party organization at all levels should actively conduct political work in keeping with the demands of developing realities and the heightened spirit of the masses. Just as the great leader went among the workers of Kangson Iron and Steel Complex in the postwar reconstruction period to arouse their revolutionary ardor and thus bring about the great Chollima upswing, so party organizations in the industrial sector should make all functionaries go far and wide among men and women of the working class to vigorously carry out political work among them and inspire them to fulfill this year's plans without fail, by bringing the revolutionary spirit of fortitude into play. Party organizations in the agricultural sector should implant party intentions deep in the hearts of agricultural workers so that they may doggedly fight to attain this year's grain production goal without fail, with the heightened awareness that they are the masters responsible for the nation's granary.

Party organizations should arm party members and workers inseparably with the party's red-flag ideology and encourage them to boldly break through all barriers and obstacles with "the spirit of arduous march" founded in the Paekdu forests. They should also insure truthfulness, scientific methods, and tenderness in ideological education. At the same time, they should actively give prominence to the innovators who have been producing new miracles and exploits by giving full play to the heightened spirits of fidelity and devotion since the beginning of the year, and vigorously waging the campaign to popularize their examples. Then, and only then, will every one of us be able to achieve labor exploits in this significant year.

An important guarantee for victory in this year's militant endeavors lies in drawing up accurate goals and fulfilling them without fail.

Party organizations at all levels should set this year's goals in a bold and innovative way, exercise minute care in making assignments, and continually intensify organizational-political work so that the monthly and quarterly targets may be fulfilled without fail.

Enhancing the economic guidance functionaries' sense of responsibility and getting them to carry out skillful production management is an important requirement for party organizations in vigorously promoting this year's militant endeavors. The economic guidance functionaries are the commanding personnel who are responsible for organizing and executing measures to implement the party's economic policy. Whether we will be able to achieve a brilliant victory in this year's militant endeavors to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy depends entirely on the fighting ability of the economic guidance functionaries. Party organizations should actively support economic guidance functionaries so that they may thoroughly fulfill this year's economic tasks by bringing their revolutionary spirit and militant role into play, with a full awareness of their basic duty. They should also direct economic guidance functionaries to go among the producer masses on a routine basis, concretely sizing up the actual conditions and carrying out economic organizational work and production management in a responsible manner in line with the demands of the Taean work method.

Mass movements are a powerful motive force driving socialist construction. We will be able to brilliantly accomplish the tasks confronting us this year if we carry out vigorous mass movements.

Party organizations at all levels must tenaciously hold fast to the party policy regarding mass movements and implement it thoroughly so that they may enhance the vitality of that policy. They should also elevate various mass movements, including the movement to advance the red flag of three revolutions, onto a higher level and add fuel to the fire of collective innovation in their respective sectors and units.

Enhancing party organizational life among party members is a basic duty of party organizations and an important link in pushing this year's militant endeavors vigorously forward. Party organizations at all levels should step up party organizational-ideological life among party members and better bring up party members as true loyal subjects and dutiful sons and daughters in order that all of them may take the lead in this year's rewarding militant undertakings.

Herculean indeed are the tasks confronting us this year, but we are capable enough to accomplish them.

We have the seasoned and tested leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il; we have the wholehearted unity forged closely around the leader [yongdoja]; and we have the sound foundations of the self-reliant national economy capable of withstanding any storm safe and sound. Party organizations at all levels should inspire party members and workers into new exploits and win brilliant victory in this year's labor battle by increasing their militant role and carrying out all tasks boldly in the revolutionary way.

DPRK Paper Underscores Leader, Party, People Unity

962C0027A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 26 Dec 95 p 4

[Article by Kim Won-il: "Wholehearted Unity Is the Source of Invincibility of Our Way of Socialism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today our way of socialism centering on the masses of people is advancing triumphantly, smashing vicious challenges and obstruction maneuvers of imperialists and reactionaries and pressing hard on their heels. It has grown into an invincible force refusing to budge even an inch in the raging storms of the times, thanks to the fact that the leader [yongdoja] and people are united in one mind, forming a harmonious whole.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out:

"Socialism in our country is an invincible socialism representing the wholehearted unity of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses."

Unity is revolution, and revolution is, precisely, unity. Revolution begins with unity and is won by the power of unity. This is a truth proved by history positively.

In the struggle of the masses for self-dependence, the kind of unity that is firmest and has the greatest vitality is wholehearted unity.

Wholehearted unity is the kind of unity that firmly bands all the people into the same ideological will and the moral, ethical ties based on one center and one ideology. In other words, it is an invincible unity with the leader and people banded together in kindred ties. It represents the most fundamental principle of revolution and is the highest form of unity.

Wholehearted unity is a decisive guarantee for the triumphant advances and consummation of the socialist cause. If only we have it, we can move forward victoriously on the untrodden path to socialism, turning adversity into prosperity and misfortune into fortune; whatever enemies may attack us, we can crush them at one stroke and defend socialism to the last.

Wholehearted unity is the source of the invincibility of our way of socialism.

This means that it is the motive power that makes it possible for our way of socialism to overcome any trials and tribulations and continue its triumphant march, always full of vigor and vitality and with absolutely no vacillation, stagnation or standstill.

The history of our people's struggle for socialism is the history of their wholehearted unity. By its might did our people overcome the raging storms of history and win brilliant victories in the revolution and construction, consolidating the position of our socialist revolution into an impregnable fortress. It is the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's outstanding achievement in the course of fulfillment of the socialist cause that he has realized in this land the firmest wholehearted unity and the greatest vitality ever acheived in the revolutionary history of the working classes, making it the face of our fatherland. It is a great victory that only our party and people led by a great leader [yongdoja] can achieve. Based on the great chuche ideology, all the people are united closely around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in one and the same mind, forming one big, solid family. The wholehearted unity of our society like this can neither be overthrown nor broken by any force in the world. Our way of socialism, which is based on it, is invincible forever.

The reason that wholehearted unity is the source of invincibility for our way of socialism is, first of all, that it unites the chuche of our revolution into one sociopolitical organic body.

To strengthen the chuche of the revolution is a fundamental task in the struggle for socialism. The chuche that drives the socialist society forward is the masses of people. Based on its intrinsic nature, the socialist society inevitably demands—for the sake of its development—the strengthening of the chuche of the revolution. If the chuche of the revolution is strengthened, socialism can strengthen and develop full of vigor and vitality with no letup; if not, socialism cannot display its superiority and vitality. In socialist society, nothing is more important than the strengthening of the chuche of the revolution.

The chuche of the revolution is a monolithic body consisting of the leader, the party, and the masses. The masses of people can make the chuche, the monolithic sociopolitical organic body, only when they firmly unite organizationally and ideologically, morally and ethically under the party leadership, with the leader in the center and based on the revolutionary ideology of the leader.

What bands the leader, the party, and the masses into a monolithic sociopolitical organic body in the firmest way is their wholehearted unity. There are various ways of people being banded together. Incidently, the kind of solidarity reflecting only temporary interests can neither be firm nor last, because it is a perfunctory one that is not based on the revolutionary ideology reflecting the independent demands and interests of the masses of people, and lacks the unitary center. Only the wholehearted unity built around the leader, its unitary center, and based on the revolutionary ideology of the leader, can make the masses of people a monolithic sociopolitical, organic body.

Wholehearted unity can be brilliantly realized when a peerless leader takes the helm of the revolution. The leader is the chief intelligence of the sociopolitical, organic body, the center of unity and solidarity, who unites the masses of people into a political force by activating their consciousness and organizing them; the revolutionary ideology of the leader serves as the ideological base of the wholehearted unity and the lifeline of chuche. The leader also strengthens the party, which is the mainstay of the revolution, with no letup and, with the party as his weapon, exercises his political leadership over the whole society. Therefore, the greatest happiness for the people is to have a great leader to lead them. And when they have a peerless leader of the revolution to lead them, the masses of people become a powerful, self-reliant chuche of the revolution. Captivated by the greatness of the leader—who illuminates the path ahead in the changing times with his preeminent ideology and theory, adding luster to history with his extraordinary leadership and to the lives of his warriors with his great love and trust—the masses of people firmly trust him as the center of solidarity and leadership, the protector of destiny, and as their father. They fully entrust him with their destiny, revering and following him infinitely. And they uphold the leadership of the party that fulfills his cause, with greater loyalty. Thus, the leader, the party, and the masses come to form a solid cohort of a common destiny.

In our country, the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses has become a brilliant reality. Today our people—firmly armed with the great chuche ideology and solidly united around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in the same ideological will and the moral and ethical ties—form a harmonious whole and a solid sociopolitical organic body based on a revolutionary camaraderie and integrity. Because it stands on this wholehearted unity that is mightier than an atomic bomb, our way of socialism is firmest and its invincibility known to the world.

The next reason that wholehearted unity is said to be the source of the invincibility of our way of socialism is that it makes it possible for it to hold steadfast to the revolutionary position and principle in socialist construction.

Socialist society is one embodying the inherent demands of the masses of people seeking to live and develop self-dependently, while the process of socialist and communist construction is, precisely, the process of fully realizing the independent stand and attitude of the masses. The struggle for socialism is distinguished from other social movements because of the revolutionary character of its principle. It hews its path by relying on the validity and vitality of its principle. Although the environment and conditions may change in the course of the revolutionary struggle, there can be no change in the basic demands and interests of the masses of people for realizing self-dependence. To adhere to the revolutionary position and principle with consistency in socialist construction constitutes an important guarantee for thoroughly defending the independent demands and basic interests of the masses of people, and for attaining the socialist cause ultimately.

The revolutionary principle should not be compromised in socialist construction, not even an inch. If we should fail to adhere to the revolutionary position and principle in a socialism-or-capitalism struggle, it becomes impossible to achieve the solidarity of the members of society or harmonious developments of the society, or to defend the dignity and interests of the state and nation. And the people would be deprived of democratic rights and freedoms and their happy lives. This is a lesson written in blood throughout history.

The revolutionary position and principle can be maintained and adhered to strictly and consistently only by the might of wholehearted unity.

Wholehearted unity firmly ensures the leadership of the party and the leader in the revolution and construction, and enhances the position and role of the masses of people infinitely; thus, it makes it possible to thoroughly protect and defend the demands and interests for the independent stand and attitude of the working masses, and to consolidate and develop socialism with no letup.

In our country, the firmest form of wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses has become a brilliant reality, and the revolutionary principle is strictly maintained and thoroughly embodied in the fulfillment of the socialist cause. The party and the leader trust and love the people infinitely, while the people absolutely support, rely on, and highly uphold the party and the leader. And it is because we have this great wholehearted unity, that we could maintain the chuche-oriented position unyieldingly even at a time when we had to build socialism in an unusually difficult and complicated environment, that we could thoroughly embody the principle of chuche in ideology, self-dependence in politics, self-support in economics, and self-reliance in national defense, and build our country into a socialist power, mighty and dignified, and that we could win world-stunning victories in our struggle for self-reliance, independence, and socialism.

Socialism has collapsed in various countries, while imperialists and reactionaries are intensifying their counterrevolutionary offensives against nations still holding to their revolutionary principles. In our country, however, the revolution and construction is being stepped up in our own way under the leadership of the party and the leader, with the party continuing to be consolidated organizationally and ideologically, the party leadership firmly guaranteed for socialist construction, the functions and role of the socialist government enhanced further, and with socialist ownership firmly maintained and constantly expanded and developed. The history of socialist construction in our country shows that the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses is precisely the source of invincibility making it possible to hold steadfast to the socialist principle, and to build a masses-centered socialism successfully.

The world's progressive peoples today are amazed at the firmness and invincibility of our way of socialism that rises high as a socialist stronghold, not shaking amid the global upheavals, but continuing to shine brilliantly, inspiring new faith, enthusiasm, and hopes about socialism in the hearts of mankind.

Events held during the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the party—the review of troops, mass demonstration parade, mass games of youths and children, the banquet, and the torchlight march—were an impressive, solemn presentation demonstrating to the whole world the true features of the wholehearted unity

of our society of the leader, the party, and the masses forming a harmonious whole.

It is the immovable faith and will of our party and people that, as they built, and added luster to, our way of socialism with the power of the wholehearted unity in the past, they will rally around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in holehearted unity, meet the challenges of enemies head-on, and push the revolutionary cause of chuche to the end to its consummation with the power of wholehearted unity, with the iron faith that they will win as long as they have the great Comrade Kim Chong-il with them, against any raging storms and even if the world comes to a cataclysm.

All functionaries and the working people will defend the wholehearted unity as the apple of their eyes, and strengthen it further and, by doing so, consolidate and develop our way of socialism and give full play to its superiority.

DPRK Article Denounces Dogmatism, Flunkeyism

962C0027B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 28 Dec 95 p2

[Article by Sin Ung-chol: "The Sagacious Leadership of the Great Leader Who Led the Revolution and Construction to Victories Under the High Banner of Chuche"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Today we mark the 40th anniversary of "On Stamping Out Dogmatism and Formalism and Establishing Chuche in Ideological Work," a classic work by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.**

On this occasion, all our party members and working people, reminiscing about the sagacious leadership and unremitting efforts of the Great Leader, who early on thoroughly established chuche and led the revolution and construction to victories, are firmly determined to carry through the teachings he left behind.

Published by the Great Leader on 28 December 1955, the immortal classic work set the stage for the epoch-making change in the struggle for victories in the socialist cause under the banner of chuche.

Fully synthesized in it are the theoretical and practical issues arising in the struggle to push the revolution and construction vigorously under the high banner of the chuche ideology, such as the issue of chuche in our ideological work, the issue of subordinating the ideological work to the interest of the Korean revolution, and the issue of thoroughly establishing chuche in all areas, political, economic, cultural, and military.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"What is chuche in our party's ideological work? What are we doing? We are making the Korean revolution, not a revolution of some other country. This Korean revolution is precisely the chuche of our party's ideological work. Therefore, the whole ideological work should definitely be subordinated to the interest of the Korean revolution."

As the Great Leader elucidated, to establish chuche is to embody the chuche ideology. It means we should manage everything with our own mind, so that we meet the aspirations and demands of our people, and suit the specific conditions of our country on our own.

The self-dependent position and the creative position—meaning that we solve all our problems in our way with our own brains—are fundamentally different from flunkeyism and dogmatism, which require one to look up to others with expectations and accept things as truth from others without question.

To establish chuche is the inherent demand of the communist movement, and it is a basic guarantee for success of socialist construction. The revolution and construction is carried out on the basis of each nation. It is a struggle to oppose all kinds of domination and enslavement and to realize the independent stand and attitude of the state and nation, and of the masses. The revolution and construction in each country has to be carried out self-dependently and creatively, with its party and people acting as the masters. For the circumstances surrounding our country, and for the historical traits of our revolution, establishing chuche in the Korean revolution was an issue of special importance. It was a key issue determining the outcome of the revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, holding aloft the banner of self-dependence from the beginning of his revolutionary activity, charted the course of self-dependent development for the Korean revolution. Especially, the Great Leader on 28 December 1955, based on an in-depth analysis of the demands of the developing revolution and the actual state of the party ideological work, set forth the sagacious guiding principle on thoroughly establishing chuche in the revolution and construction. **And he embodied it brilliantly.**

Thanks to the leadership of the Great Leader, a vigorous struggle to establish chuche was launched in every area of the revolution and construction, and as a result, our country was built into a rich and strong socialist power of self-dependence, self-support, and self-reliant defense. **Reverberating** among the peoples of the world today are the voices that our way of socialism is tough because the Great Leader, opposing flunkeyism and dogmatism from early on, led our people to establish chuche. Indeed, the Great Leader was a preeminent leader of the revolution and a great man with no parallel in history, who led the revolution with his brilliant gift of foresight, the ability to look far ahead into the future.

The sagacity of the leadership of the Great Leader in establishing chuche lies, first of all, in the fact that it was directed to ideological work.

To lead the revolution and construction to victory, ideological work has to be stepped up. Socialism wins when it takes a firm grip on ideology; it fails when it botches ideological work. This is a truth positively proven by history. To arm the masses of people with the socialist ideology by giving priority to ideological work, it is important to establish chuche in that work.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, after laying out the path for the Korean revolution, advised revolutionaries and the people to keep the spirit of self-dependence engraved on their hearts. The spirit of self-dependence implanted in their minds by the Great Leader was the spirit of thinking and acting with their own mind and solving all problems on their own. It was the belief of the Great Leader that with ideological work, too, it should be conducted not in a way borrowed from some other country, but in a manner that meets the aspirations and demands of our people, and that with a picture to be appreciated or a verse to be sung, it should be one that suits the feelings of our people. Regarding experiences of other countries, the Great Leader always taught that we should accept only those suitable to actual conditions in our country and to the demands of our people. Otherwise, he taught, we should not accept them. Thanks to the sagacious leadership of the Great Leader for establishing chuche in ideological work, our party could launch its ideological work vigorously among party members and the working people, including the chuche ideology indoctrination, the party policy indoctrination, the revolutionary tradition indoctrination, and the socialist patriotism indoctrination, with primary emphasis on the chuche ideology indoctrination. This led to fundamental changes in the ideological viewpoint and thought process of our people. Flunkeyism and dogmatism that had been historically handed down in our country were stamped out thoroughly, and the people were armed more firmly with the revolutionary ideology of our party and the self-dependent ideological consciousness. Today our people are fighting on staunchly, with the firm belief that the party and the leader are number one, and our way of socialism is number one. The inflexible spirit of self-dependence and confidence of our people, strengthened historically, is the source of the toughness of our way of socialism. As time passes by, we are more convinced about how correct and prescient the Great Leader was in establishing chuche in ideological work.

The sagacity of the leadership of the Great Leader in thoroughly establishing chuche lies, next, in the fact that it held steadfast to the line of self-dependence in politics, self-support in economics, and self-reliance in defense.

The independent stand and attitude is the inherent demand of man and the lifeline of a state and nation. In order to advance the revolution and construction in accordance with that demand of man, the line of self-dependence must be adhered to strictly.

It is a basic principle set forth by the Great Leader to firmly maintain the independent stand and attitude in the revolution and construction. The Great Leader consistently adhered to the line of self-dependence in politics, self-support in economics, and self-reliance in defense as he led the revolution and construction to victories.

The self-dependence line of our party is a revolutionary line at the core of which is the principle of chuche and the spirit of the independent stand and attitude. The Great Leader led the party and people to solve all problems of the revolution and construction on their own, on the principle of self-reliance, and in the light of the actual conditions in our country and the interests of our revolution.

Under the sagacious leadership of the Great Leader, our party and people resolutely rejected all interferences and pressures from outside forces, whatever they were. They analyzed and formed their judgement on everything solely from the viewpoint of the interest of the revolution without being mired in the existing theories and formulas, thus advancing the complicated and arduous Korean revolution victoriously, based on their conviction and determination, and on their own. Today our economy walks on its own feet, providing a firm guarantee for the future of our way of socialism. At the same time, our country has strictly adhered to the principle of self-reliance in defense. As a result, our people's army is known to the world for its invincibility against any formidable force. Moreover, an all-people defense system has been firmly established. Our country today boasts of its mighty existence as a stronghold of socialism. And it is forging ahead shattering all kinds of imperialistic and reactionary maneuvers.

Thanks to the self-dependence line set forth by the Great Leader, our party and people were not affected by the raging storms of modern revisionism and other types of opportunism; at a grave time when socialism collapsed in various countries, our party and people could hold on to our way of socialism, adding luster to it. Our political strength, our powerful self-supporting socialist economy, and our invincible self-reliant military power—which our party and people built up like bedrock by carrying through the revolutionary line of self-dependence, self-support, and self-reliance—are a reliable guarantee for defending the sovereignty of the nation and the gains of the revolution, advancing the revolution and construction victoriously, and for crushing the aggression and interferences of imperialists and dominationists. Even with their political and diplomatic pressures, destructive ideological and cultural maneuvers, and their economic blockades and military threats, imperialists cannot infringe on our nation's sovereignty. Nor can they undermine or stifle to death our socialism.

The history of chuche established and maintained firmly in our country was the history of an unprecedented arduous and difficult struggle. It was riddled with incessant maneuvers of imperialists and reactionaries for aggression and war provocations, vicious maneuvers of anti-party, counterrevolutionary factional elements against the self-dependence line, and with obstruction maneuvers of revisionists. However difficult the struggle was, our party and people budged not even an inch because the Great Leader was at the helm of the revolution pressing ahead under the high banner of chuche.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song was a great communist revolutionary, and a genius of revolution and construction, who led our arduous revolution on the one road of chuche, with his infinite devotion, unwavering revolutionary faith, and revolutionary iron will for the self-dependence cause for the masses of people, the socialist cause of chuche. The Great Leader held resolutely to the principle of chuche under all circumstances, and led our party and people with a brilliant model of leadership art that combined principle and promptitude most efficiently in the revolution and construction. Because of the iron will and tested leadership of the Great Leader, they experienced only victories, overcoming the countless barriers in the revolution.

Whenever we look back on the long history of our revolution, we always think of the sagacious leadership and foresight of the Great Leader who always had held aloft the banner of chuche, with deep emotions. And we renew our firm resolve to struggle even more staunchly along the path charted by the Leader.

We still have a long way to go. Numerous trials and tribulations lie ahead of our revolution. But, no matter how prolonged and perilous the path of our revolutionary cause charted by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song might be, we will move on strictly along that path unswervingly in keeping with the teachings left by the Leader. This is the immovable faith and will of our party and people.

Today, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is energetically leading the struggle to carry forward and complete the revolutionary cause of chuche, to which the respected and beloved leader devoted his lifelong leadership. It is the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il who is now illuminating the path to the attainment of the chuche cause with his brilliant, clairvoyant wisdom. The leader [yongdoja] who is advancing the revolution and construction, holding aloft the red flag of revolution and tackling and overcoming all difficulties head-on, is also none other than Comrade Kim Chong-il. The immortal classic work "Treating Revolutionary Predecessors with Respect Is a Moral Duty of Revolutionaries," published recently, vividly conveys the infinite loyalty of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il to the revolutionary achievements of the Great Leader, as well as his unswerving faith and iron will to advance our revolution strictly along the path charted by the Leader.

Because we have the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il with us, the Korean revolution will advance strictly along the path of chuche forever.

We will fight on, rallying even more closely around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il under the high banner of chuche, and, by doing so, ultimately attain the socialist cause of chuche, which was charted by the Fatherly Leader and to which end he devoted his life.

South Korea

ROK: U.S. State Department Spokesman Comments on DPRK

SK0504052196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 5 (YONHAP) — U.S. State Dept Spokesman Glen Davis said North Korea should keep its obligations and avoid provocative acts in accordance with the Armistice Agreement, because the U.S. will abide by the truce agreement until a permanent peace agreement is signed.

In a regular media briefing session at the State Dept Thursday afternoon, the spokesman said the North Korean announcement is another series of its attempt at dismantling the truce agreement, which has contributed greatly to preserving peace on the Korean peninsula for over 40 years.

The U.S. has been trying to find out the true and correct meaning of the North Korean announcement and intends to watch for developments to get at the real significance of the North Korean move.

Asked if the U.S. and South Korea would continue to keep maintaining and controlling the Demilitarized Zone, he said,"We will continue to abide by the truce agreement and it includes provisions for preserving and controlling the DMZ."

North Korea is trying to get as far away as possible from the truce agreement provisions with its announcement, asked if the U.S. assumes North Korea's statement meant unilateral break-up of the agreement. The U.S. has been maintaining its ability to keep watch on the Military Demarcation Line in top shape for all these years, Davis added.

He denied that the North Korean move might have anything with the upcoming missile talks, and shot back at media people that the question should be directed at North Korean authorities.

ROK: U.S. Official Says Korean Situation 'Not Serious'

SK0504025596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 5 (YONHAP) — "The situation is not serious," said a U.S. Government official related with the Korean situation in Washington Thursday, commenting on the North Korean announcement Thursday to renounce the Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean war.

The official recalled that the North Korean military said it will risk the resumption of war in the Korean peninsula, in its reaction against Gen. Gary Luck's repeated emphasis that North Korea's demise is a matter of time, in his call for the construction of a missile defense network in South Korea against possible North Korean military provocation.

He went on to say that North Korea's declaration won't go beyond the nature of a warning this time, too, speaking from his assessment of the situation.

The official also said, "President Clinton has decided to stop by Korea only for a brief time on his way to Japan, and Russia, which is sure to have made North Koreans concerned." " The nervous reaction from North Koreans is not unrelated to the trip," continued the official.

He also recalled that North Korea kept demanding the conclusion of a provisional peace agreement with the U.S., knowing well its opposition to such proposal. Although there have been differences in degrees, the U.S. and North Korea have been making progress toward softening their hard relationship under the U.S.-North Korea basic framework agreement: He pointed as indications for such improving relations: Talks on U.S. MIA remains are slated to be resumed, following the negotiations on North Korean missile exports: and the U.S. commerce debt has eased its export ban against the North to the effect that prior approvals won't be needed to send aid to North Korea.

"These quite, but significant steps should be carefully watched," said the official.

ROK Denounces DPRK Dismantling of DMZ Agreement

SK0404131596 Seoul YONHAP in English 1308 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 4 (YONHAP) — The South Korean Government, denouncing the North Korean announcement not to carry on its duty regarding the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] as an attempt to unilaterally scrap the Armistice Agreement, said Thursday evening it would by no means tolerate the North Korean scheme.

In a statement issued by the Defense Ministry, the government said Thursday's Pyongyang announcement was in line with the threat made by 1st Vice People's Armed Forces Minister Kim Kwang-chin last March 29 to the effect that the outbreak of a war on the Korean peninsula is a matter of time.

"Their latest action is meant to scrap the Armistice Agreement one-sidedly and launch a major military provocation, which we will not tolerate under any circumstances," the statement said.

The statement came after an emergency unification-related ministers meeting held under the chair of Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Kwon O-ki.

The meeting, held on heels of the North Korean announcement, was attended besides Kwon by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong, Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho, Agency for National Security Planning Director Kwon Yong-hae and Chief Presidential Secretary Kim Kwang-il.

"We hereby make it express that if North Korea unleashes a provocation in breach of the military armistice agreement, we will retaliate promptly and firmly under the joint Korea-U.S. defense system," it said.

The statement said that the existing Armistice Agreement cannot be repealed or revised one-sidedly and should be respected until a lasting peace mechanism sets in under a South-North agreement.

"We urge North Korea to stop trying to destroy the Armistice Agreement and join in efforts to promote peace and national reconciliation by returning to the armistice-managing organization," the statement added.

DPRK Said Willing To Allow ROK Participation In Peace Talks

SK0404235796 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 4 Apr 96

[YONHAP from Bangkok]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the announcement made by the spokesman of the North Korean Army's Panmunjom Mission that North Korea will not fulfill the duties pursuant to the Armistice Agreement, an official concerned at the North Korean Embassy in Bangkok revealed that North Korea is urging the United States to accept the proposal to conclude the tentative agreement that North Korea has put forward to deter a military conflict and the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

The official also revealed that once a tentative agreement is concluded between North Korea and the United States in place of the Armistice Agreement, North Korea will review the issue of allowing the ROK to participate as an observer in the North Korean-U.S. peace talks in the future.

ROK Daily: Media Reporting on DPRK Intimidation 'Prudent'

SK0504081696 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by political editor Chong Un-pom; from the "News in Review" section: "Media Prudent This Time Reporting NK Intimidation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Korean press has often been criticized for tilting toward sensationalism.

However, it is different this time in reporting North Korea's intimidation of South Korea.

North Korean Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin recently said, according to the North Korean Central News Agency, "The point now is not whether a war will break out on the Korean peninsula or not, but when it will happen."

He said the armistice on the Korean peninsula is reaching its limit, warning that a new war in the area was becoming inevitable.

North Korean Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil was quoted as having said the tense situation being created on the Korean peninsula resembled "the eve of war."

According to a Yonhap dispatch from Moscow, Son said, "North Korean armed forces will rise up to protect socialism and the fatherland," when talking about the situation on the Korean peninsula in the wake of the statement issued by Vice Marshal Kim.

The remarks by the North Korean military leader and diplomat are sufficient enough to send people scurrying to stockpile provisions in preparation for war as they did in the spring of 1994, for which wild journalism was largely responsible.

But this time vernacular dailies are prudent. The North Korean growling was reported in all dailies, but in a laconic way without agitating the general public.

Dailies may not afford to pay particular attention to the intimidating remarks as they are preoccupied with covering the impending elections of lawmakers April 11.

For whatever reason, the local media has been cool-headed reporting on the North's intimidation and may well take credit for not having rocked the general public, who is liable to panic because of the subconscious fear of war that originated in the internecine war in 1950.

In the spring of 1994, the nation was on edge because of a spinoff from a row between North Korea and the United States over suspected nuclear arms development by North Korea.

A North Korean delegate to an inter-Korean meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom shouted at his South Korean counterpart at that time, "If a war breaks out, Seoul will immediately be turned into a fire ball. Then, I cannot guarantee your safety." The remarks sent a cold chill through the nation, triggering a spate of articles on the possibility of a repeat of the 1950 fratricidal war.

Newspapers were full of graphic articles related to war. Foreign media in particular including several leading ones in the United States played up the war likelihood.

CNN, fresh from its successful on-the-spot broadcast of the Gulf War, was said to have formed a special team prepared to respond in case of another war on the Korean peninsula.

If this writer's memory is correct the sensationalism was so rampant that U.S. Ambassador James Laney had to send out an official letter discrediting the rumors.

In retrospect, it was "laughable."

Will there be a new war on the Korean peninsula?

At the time of the Korean War in 1950, the Soviet Union and China were behind North Korea's war effort. However, U.S. officials did not fail to say that South Korea was outside the perimeter of U.S. defense, leaving it out in the cold defenseless.

Now, the situation is completely reversed. North Korea cannot enlist the support from Russia and China. In sharp contrast, the United States defense commitment to South Korea is strong and real.

The Department of Defense of the United States fears that since North Korea is beleaguered with economic difficulties including food shortage, it may turn to a kind of last adventurism as a means of survival.

But it is a long shot. Usually, those in power can hardly sense the fall of their regime as in the case of the communist nations in Eastern Europe, according to Dr. Kim Kyong-won, who once served as Korean ambassador to Washington and senior presidential secretary for national defense and diplomatic matters. No serious sign of dissension is seen in the closely-woven North Korean society. North Korean leadership can hardly think that its days are numbered.

From this line of reasoning, North Korea's blackmailing tactics were to squeeze more concessions out of the United States and Japan in negotiations for eventual normalization, taking advantage of the subconscious fear of war among South Korean people.

Although general military provocation is out of the question, it does not allow South Korea to lower its guard because North Korea defies what is considered common sense in the West. For desperadoes, there is nothing that cannot be ventured.

North Korea sent a commando team all the way down to Chongwadae [presidential offices] to take the life of then president Pak Chong- hui in 1968. It also sent a hit men for the life of Chon Tu-hwan during the latter's visit to Rangoon in 1983. It blew off an unarmed Korean Air passenger airliner mid-air near Burma on its way to Seoul from the Middle East in 1987, and bore several infiltration tunnels into the South crossing the military demarcation line.

ROK Dailies on DPRK Abandoning DMZ-Related Obligations

SK0504114896

[FBIS Report] Seoul vernacular dailies on 5 April carry articles and an editorial commenting on the 4 April press statement by the spokesman for the Panmunjom Mission of the North Korean People's Army announcing that North Korea has renounced its duties to maintain and manage the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ].

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,600-word article by reporter Yi Tae-kun entitled "The Significance of North Korea's Renunciation of Its DMZ-Related Duties — Pressure Against the United States To Sign a Peace Agreement." The article notes that the North Korean statement has not specified whether Pyongyang is giving up all or part of its duties related to the DMZ, and observes that although North Korea may not go so far as to engage in provocative military actions, it will raise considerable obstacles to managing and maintaining Panmunjom. The article states: "North Korea's fundamental objective in taking measures to incapacitate the Armistice Agreement is to highlight the need for a North Korea-U.S. peace agreement." The article notes the consistent U.S. position that the peace agreement is a matter to be settled between the North and South. It concludes by noting the possibility the North Korean scheme is designed to create feelings of anxiety in the ROK with the general elections only a week away.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 2 a 1,800-word article by reporter Pak Che-kyun entitled "The Meaning of the North Korean Announcement on Disregarding the DMZ — A Strong Measure Aimed at Signing a Peace Agreement." The article notes that North Korea's 4 April measure could fundamentally shake up the armistice mechanism, observing: "North Korea's measures to incapacitate the armistice mechanism are no doubt aimed at inducing the United States to sign a peace agreement." The article notes: "The North Korean statement that Pyongyang will not acknowledge the status of the DMZ means North Korea will openly engage in military actions in the DMZ. North Korea is expected to heighten military tensions in the DMZ to induce the United States to reason that signing a peace agreement with North Korea would be unavoidable in order to resolve the tension." The article then observes that the North Korean measure may well lead the ROK Government to assume a tougher stance in inter-Korean relations.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,400-word article by reporter An Hui-chang entitled "The Background and Significance of the North Korean Declaration on Disregarding the DMZ — Possibility of the North Militarizing the DMZ." The article notes the possibility of North Korea militarizing the DMZ by bringing large numbers of troops into the DMZ and by building military facilities in the Zone, as well as the possibility of a military provocation against the ROK's five islands in the Yellow Sea. The article notes that North Korea may watch the reactions of the ROK and U.S. Governments before taking the next step. The article concludes that North Korea may commit local military provocations to divert the attention of the North Koreans from their domestic problems, such as the severe food shortages.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 a 900-word article by reporter Chang In-chol entitled "North Korea Takes Another Tactic To Incapacitate the Armistice Regime." The article notes: "North Korea's announcement on renouncing its DMZ-related obligations may be followed by a declaration on the abolition of the Korean Armistice Agreement. This will not only adversely affect the government's efforts to resume inter-Korean dialogue, which were to be pushed ahead with following the general elections, but may prolong tensions on the Korean peninsula." The article notes that North Korea's measure must be aimed at diverting the attention of its people from the crisis in its system, using the statement as a leverage to gain the advantage in its negotiation with the United States, concluding: "North Korea may continue making provocative declarations while seeking negotiations with the United States and Japan to maximize the propaganda effect at home and abroad."

The pro-Government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,100-word article by reporter Ku Pon-yong entitled "Incapacitating Armistice Agreement — Calculated Coercion." The article notes that North Korea's announcement will probably create serious shockwaves in future inter-Korean relations, and that it is a "show of force" for North Korea-U.S. negotiations that will occur following the ROK general elections. The article notes North Korea's multi-purpose calculation to tide over its internal and external crisis, calming the complaints of the North Korean residents and creating anxiety among the ROK people over the possibility of war, thus giving rise to public opinion that sympathizes with rice aid to the North. The article also notes that the follow-up measures North Korea will take will be limited since the ROK-U.S. alliance is firm on the issue of the peace regime that replaces the armistice regime should be established through discussions between the North and South; thus, North Korea is expected to concentrate on psychological pressure tactics that forewarn of the possibility of war. However, the article notes that North Korea's limited actions could lead to unexpected contingencies.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "North Korean Declaration on Disregarding the DMZ." The editorial observes: "The North Korean assertion that it should sign a peace agreement with the United States without the involvement of the ROK Government ran into difficulty because of its impracticability. The United States made it clear from the outset that such North Korean assertions were impossible; even the PRC and Russia, which are sympathetic to North Korea, are now opposing North Korea's assertion." The editorial concludes by urging North Korea to stop creating tension.

ROK Defense Ministry Upgrades Alert Status of Armed Forces

SK0504083396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0827 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 5 (YONHAP) — The Defense Ministry has upgraded the intelligence alert status to "Watch Con 2" from Watch Con 3 Friday.

With the boost in the alert status, all South Korean military units, including ground, air force and naval units have been given orders to strengthen their surveillance operations against enemy forces, said Pak Yong-ok, chief of the Policy Planning Office of the Defense Ministry.

Pak told the media Friday afternoon that the decision has been made in consultation with the combined Korea-U.S. armed forces command.

Under Watch Con 2 alert status, ground, air force and naval units have been instructed to intensify their surveillance activities against North Korean military moves. However, the ministry will keep the defense readiness condition unchanged.

The Defense Ministry elevated the intelligence alert status for the first time in 15 years since February, 1982, when North Korea stationed the IL-28 fighter-bombers at advance bases near the DMZ and conducted air force operations throughout the North.

The Defense Ministry official said the North Korean announcement Thursday to renounce its obligations and duties relating to the Armistice Agreement is altogether different in nature from its past attempts to weaken the truce agreement. "It is an attempt designed to break it up in total, and they expect armed provocations from the North down the road in view of the statements made by some North Korean leaders that war on the Korean peninsula is inevitable," Pak said, by way of explaining the reasons for elevating the alert status for South Korean military.

Pak continued that South Korea will continue to abide by the truce agreement and keep maintaining the normal surveillance operations in the DMZ and the Panmunjom areas.

"When attacked, we will counter in a firm manner in accordance with the combat engagement regulations specified by the UN Command [UNC]," Pak said.

The UNC's combat engagement regulations stipulate: When enemy forces cross over into this side of the DMZ, the military units under the UNC should try to find out their identities and open fire only when they refuse to cooperate and run away: and the UNC regulations specify action steps when fired upon by enemy forces with artillery, automatic weapons, and rifles.

ROK: DPRK 2d Proposal To Hold N-S Contact Studied

SK0504090596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0621 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 5 (YONHAP) — North Korea refused South Korea's counter proposal that the 4th inter-Korean talks be held in the Korean peninsula Friday, and again called for talks in Beijing.

The South, objecting the North Korean offer to hold the talks in Beijing on March 20, counter proposed later that inter-Korean meeting held in any place on the Korean peninsula.

According to NAEWOE Press, Chon Kum-chol, who represented the North during the rice aid talks in Beijing, in his fax to Information and Communications Minister Yi Sok-chae, claimed that the South talks about strange and unrelated issues such as stopping announcements to vilify the South, and holding the inter-Korean talks inside the Korean peninsula, while not showing any interest in the talks. Yi, as vice finance and economy minister, represented the South during the Beijing talks.

NAEWOE Press, quoted a Pyongyang Radio broadcast of Chon's message as saying that the matter of holding inter-Korean talks cannot be decided by the representatives of both Koreas, and called on the South to withdraw all the inappropriate demands and come to the 4th inter-Korean talks in Beijing.

The Pyongyang Radio withheld its initial proposal for the Beijing talks for 10 days until march 30. But this time, it aired Chon's counter offer immediately in a sign that the North intends to use it in a propaganda scheme against the South.

ROK Daily Assesses Korean Peninsula 'Tense' Situation

SK0504124996 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 5 Apr 96 p 3

[Editorial: "The Situation on the Korean Peninsula Following the General Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the entire country is absorbed in the upcoming 15th general elections, the situation surrounding our neighborhood is more tense and subtle than ever before. Japan revealed that it has been secretly holding preliminary negotiations to establish diplomatic relations with North Korea, and the United States has openly revealed it will work to settle pending issues with North Korea, such as holding missile negotiations right after the general elections.

What makes us all the more worried is that the ROK Government and ruling party are also issuing remarks that seem to indicate changes will occur regarding our policy toward the North, all under the precondition of "following the general elections." To our apprehension, remarks indicating there will be changes in our policy toward the North following the general elections are the basis of the current policy which is "aimed at the general elections," even including the nuance that there will be large "concessions" following the general elections.

In this atmosphere, the United States and Japan are viewing the "ROK general elections" as a turning point in their policy toward the North. This provides the unpleasant impression that the ROK Government is requesting the United States and Japan not create any "hardships" during the general elections. If this is the case, the North Korean authorities will feel it is natural to improve relations with the United States and Japan; furthermore, they may conclude that the more they slander and threaten the ROK Government, the more of an awkward position they place the ROK in, and that there is nothing wrong with this.

During the ROK-U.S.-Japan talks held in Hawaii in January regarding rice aid to the North, two preconditions were set: "dialogue between the authorities of the South and North" and "the suspension of slander." Even though the preconditions were arranged, and even though we provided 150,000 tonnes of rice to the North, Pyongyang continued slander and threaten the ROK.

We do not know why the United States and Japan act as if these two preconditions are dependent upon the timetable of "until after the ROK's general elections." The general elections will be held within the week; the U.S. presidential elections are just right around the corner. Thus, because of Clinton's reelection strategy, there is the possibility that the appeasement policy toward the North may once again dictate the situation on the Korean peninsula. This will naturally stimulate anxiety as regards Japan's negotiations with the DPRK to establish diplomatic relations, and will be a serious diplomatic burden to us.

Unfortunately, however, the only means we can mobilize to overcome this dilemma is our firm position and persistent persuasive efforts. We cannot but find a lesson from the previous example in which we were proud of the condition "South-North dialogue" when the nuclear negotiations were settled just one year ago, but which has now completely disappeared without a trace. Thus, now is the time for the government and the ruling and opposition parties to separate the South-North issue and foreign policy from the elections and politics.

ROK: Japanese Professor Views Situation in DPRK

SK0404151296 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 4 Apr 96 p 7

[Interview with Masao Okonogi, a professor at Japan's Keio University, by correspondent Kang Song-po in Tokyo; date not given; first two paragraphs are reporter's introductory notes]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are curious to know what is happening in North Korea, which is reportedly suffering from serious food shortages. General Gary Luck, commander of the U.S. Forces in Korea, testified that the North Korean collapse is only a matter of when and how; Kim Kwang-chin, vice marshal of the North Korean People's Army and vice minister of the People's Armed Forces, threatened: "The state of armistice has reached its limit." What are they thinking?

Masao Okonogi, a North Korean expert and a professor at Japan's Keio University, who visited North Korea from 23 to 30 March as a member of the Japanese delegation from the Institute for Studies in International Affairs, an auxiliary organ of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, described the North Korean situation as follows.

[Kang] What was the scene like in Pyongyang?

[Okonogi] It came as a surprise to me. Although I had heard that North Korea was experiencing severe food shortages, the scene in Pyongyang did not reflect that at all. Pyongyang did not look much different from when I saw it four and a half years ago. Taking a closer look, I felt the clothes the people were wearing were of somewhat better material than before. In addition, construction work was going on here and there throughout Pyongyang.

[Kang] Was that the situation only in Pyongyang, the so-called North Korean window?

[Okonogi] We travelled by road to Panmunjom and Mt. Myohyang, but did not see any signs of destitution among the rural residents we met on the way. Of course they were thin, but thinness is a characteristic feature of the North Korean people, and they were not wearing any expressions that betrayed signs of severe hunger.

[Kang] Are the reports of a food crisis in North Korea erroneous?

[Okonogi] No. Officials from the North Korean Disarmament Institute, which invited us to visit the North, admitted there were serious food shortages. They said that whereas the annual North Korean requirement of grain is six million tonnes, North Korea harvested only 3.5 million tonnes last year.

[Kang] What is the reason that, despite the food shortage, the North Korean residents appeared "normal?"

[Okonogi] It is because the North Korean people have long since become accustomed to the political system, which is like a religion to them. Economic destitution does not drive them to despair. It seems they firmly believe they will someday lead an affluent life under the leadership of their leader. NODONG SINMUN compared the present situation to the "arduous road" they traversed during the anti-Japanese struggle led by President Kim Il-song, and urged the people to overcome it while united around the comrade leader.

[Kang] Were there any expectations of rice aid from South Korea?

[Okonogi] The North Korean people appeared to be possess considerable hostile feelings toward South Korea, feeling that South Korea is blocking assistance from the United States and Japan. They thought that the rice aid South Korea gave North Korea last year was prompted by the political objectives of the South Korean Government rather than by the good will and sympathy of compatriots.

[Kang] Then why did North Korea propose resuming the rice talks in Beijing?

[Okonogi] It may be part of North Korea's political tactic, which is aimed at shaking up the South Korean Government just prior to the approaching general elections. By initiating rice talks shortly before the elections, the North Koreans may be thinking about the ruling party's stunning defeat in the South's local elections last year.

[Kang] What is the energy situation in North Korea?

[Okonogi] With shortages in the electric power supply even in the super-A class Koryo Hotel where we stayed, we experienced frequent power outages. This was also the case with department stores, high-class restaurants, and recreation rooms. When power outages suddenly occurred, the North Korean residents, who seemed to be accustomed to such power outages, waited a minute for their eyes to adapt to the dark then exited the building in an orderly manner. We experienced power outages several times when we visited a clothing factory on the outskirts of Pyongyang. A guide told us that important plants received their electricity from a hydroelectric power plant and a thermal power plant, the two power plants complementing each other.

[Kang] During your visit to North Korea, Kim Kwang-chin issued his extraordinarily hawkish press statement that the armistice has reached its limits.

[Okonogi] While we were dining on 28 March, Kim Pyong-hun, director of the Disarmament Institute, told us that new military steps would be taken the following day. Although he did not disclose any of the details, the members of our delegation were considerably alarmed. After we heard the press statement, we asked a North Korean official about its background. The official said the military feels an unbearable anger toward South Korea. However, I do not think the press statement has any real military significance; it may be just a political warning. This is seen by the fact that the press statement was issued after the presidential elections in Taiwan. If North Korea had really sought to increase military tension, it would have chosen to issue it before the presidential elections in Taiwan, when the PRC and the United States confronted each other. Although North Korea stressed the military tensions, revealing that Secretary Kim Chong-il had recently visited Panmunjom on three occasions, we felt no military tension in Pyongyang and Panmunjom.

[Kang] Have you heard anything about North Korea's political schedule?

[Okonogi] As regards the continued delays in Secretary Kim Chong-il's assuming the posts of party general secretary and the DPRK president, and the convocation of the Supreme People's Assembly, North Korean officials repeatedly stressed that the delay is unavoidable "to respect the people's sentiment." In other words, the mourning period for President Kim Il-song has not ended.

I got the impression that Secretary Kim Chong-il will probably assume the posts on 8 July, the second anniversary of President Kim Il-song's death, or on 10 October, the party's founding anniversary. North Koreans often told us they must work hard in their relevant units to add luster to General Kim Chong-il's assumption of the top posts. I believe that if they fail to achieve their political objectives, such as improving relations with the United States, then the resulting irritation could prompt the adventurists to provoke a local war. If this is the case, the situation on the Korean peninsula will enter its most critical phase beginning after the general elections in South Korea are over up until July.

[Kang] Some observers note that the purpose of your delegation's visit to North Korea was to lay the groundwork for Japanese-North Korean negotiations to normalize relations.

[Okonogi] We only report on the contents of the discussions we had and what we have seen and heard. Whether the foreign policy makers of the two sides will utilize them is quite another matter.

[Kang] What is the North Korean view regarding the normalization of diplomatic relations with Japan?

[Okonogi] The North Koreans are quite active. Officials from the North Korean Disarmament and Peace Institute said the normalization of Japanese-North Korean relations will contribute to stability in Northeast Asia.

[Kang] Is there any effective prescription for improving inter- Korean relations?

[Okonogi] The North Koreans have too strong feelings of hostility toward South Korea. Even if the two sides began a dialogue now, only discord would be heard. It is advisable that the South take the initiative following the general elections, using the United States and Japan as a cushion.

ROK: Memorandum of Understanding Signed on Tumen River Area

SK0504022496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to establish a $1 million trust fund for the Tumen River Area Development Program (TRADP), the Ministry of Finance and Economy said yesterday.

The trust money will be used for financing a feasibility study on the TRADP, as well as research and other activities, a ministry official said.

"The money will be spent on UNDP-selected projects which the Korean government agrees upon," said Chong Tok-ku, director-general of the ministry's international economic policy bureau. "The government will make an additional contribution to the trust fund if necessary."

The establishment of the trust fund is expected to give fresh momentum to the TRADP, which has made no progress because of lack of funds.

If the TRADP goes as planned, it will contribute to easing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and South Korean companies will be able to participate in the project, the ministry said.

The TRADP is a UNDP-initiated program designed to develop a triangular area near the Tumen River into a hub for transportation, tourism and manufacturing in Northeast Asia.

Five interested countries — South Korea, North Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia — signed an agreement on the TRADP in Beijing last December.

ROK: Political Indifference 'Widespread Among Voters'

SK0504050296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Song-yong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With political indifference wide-spread among voters as the April 11 general elections approaches, which party will be the biggest benefactor of the apathy is the biggest question.

A recent poll conducted jointly by a leading daily and a polling company, the Korea Gallup, shows that less than a week before the elections, more than half of voters are still unsure or unwilling to decide on a candidate.

Rep. Kang Sam-chae, secretary-general of the ruling New Korea Party, also said yesterday that unlike in past polls, the portion of undecided voters remains high only six days ahead of election day.

One of the reasons for the political cynicism and apathy is, Kang said in all election strategy meeting, similar policies by rival parties.

Even President Kim Yong-sam's drive for clean politics, which could have been a major election issue, has become a target of opposition mockery after one of his close aides was indicted last week on graft charges.

Another reason is that many voters are tired of the lock the three Kims — President Kim, his archrivals Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil — still have on Korean politics.

Political apathy among voters has been strong enough to force political parties to shift their campaign tactics to those emphasizing man-to-man contact with voters, as opposed to speaking at mass rallies.

Political indifference, widespread particularly among voters in their 20s, can easily lead a high abstention rate, observers say.

Opinion poll experts say the voter turnout in the upcoming National Assembly elections is likely to drop to around 65 percent from 71.9 percent in the last general elections in 1992.

Officials of the Central Election Management Committee, the nation's top election watchdog body, agree with the pollsters' opinion, citing the voting trend of the last three Assembly polls.

The trend shows that the voting rate fell by 8.6 percent and 4.9 percent respectively, in 1988 and in 1992 from the voter turnout 84.6 percent in the 1984 National Assembly elections.

The answers to what impact the predicted high abstention rate will have on the outcome of the April polls are divided.

A senior officer of the Korea Gallup said a high abstention rate will specifically help the main opposition National Congress for New Politics led by Kim Tae-chung.

"In the past when there was a clear division between democracy campaigners and military dictators, a low voting rate worked favorably for the ruling party, which had organized supporters and money. But, the situation will totally be reversed in the upcoming polls," said the officer.

"The NCNP will be the biggest benefactor because the abstention rate of voters from Cholla provinces, party leader Kim's homebase, is relatively low, and they tend to give uniform support to his party," he said.

A pollster at Media Research, a polling company has a different opinion.

He said voters in their 20s, who make up 28.6 percent of the total electorate, will decide whether the voting rate is high or not.

He agreed that the abstention rate among them will be higher in the upcoming polls than in the 1992 elections.

But the pollster said that it is hard to tell which party will benefit most because the 20s age group does not particularly favor a certain party.

Pak Song-kuk, a political advertisement expert, said "If the voting rate among them is as low as expected, the minor opposition Democratic Party, which commands relatively high popularity among them, will suffer most."

Kim Tong-il, a sociologist teaching at Ewha Women's University, maintains a more typical opinion.

"I don't know which political party will benefit from a high abstention rate, but I do know that the voters themselves will suffer the most.

"A high abstention rate will allow those candidates unskilled in state affairs but very capable of mobilizing supporters by any possible means available to take seats on the National Assembly," he said.

ROK: Tycoons' Trips Seen as Dodging Election Involvement

SK0504050996 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Money is the name of the game in campaigning. Business tycoons, generally seen as major financial contributors in campaigns, are rushing overseas to perhaps avoid the hype of the final week of electioneering leading up to the April 11 vote.

Even last month, many business group leaders opted to spend time in foreign countries to look over their operations there. Some saw this as a business strategy but others also said it was done to avoid involvement in the general elections.

"Group owners have long made it their business to take things into their own hands, but it does appear their preference to remain overseas has something to do with not wanting to get involved in the elections," one group official said.

In fact, business trips by group owners are becoming so frequent that it is beginning to appear that their main place of business is overseas and they just return periodically to take care of business at home.

Therefore, it was unusual to see so many business magnates in Seoul on Wednesday, attending a breakfast meeting held by President Kim Yong-sam, who is seeking their help to win the right to hold the 2002 World Cup in Korea.

Now that the meeting with the Chief Executive is over, they are once again booking flights out of the country.

Samsung Group chairman Yi Kon-hui, who is facing charges of offering bribes to former president No Tae-u, returned to Korea momentarily and took off on a Korean Air flight for the United States.

Group officials said Yi will preside over a strategy meeting of the top executives of the group in San Diego and inspect operations at various posts in the United States.

ROK Ministry Plans To Increase Rice Production Investment

SK0504054296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in a bid to secure the self-sufficiency of rice, plans to increase investment for rice production by more than 40 percent.

The ministry yesterday revealed in a 1996-1998 investment program that it will pour 3.999 trillion won into increasing rice production, up 40.7 percent from 1995.

Of the rice-related investment, 621.3 billion won will be used for the readjustment of arable land annually during the period, an increase of 35.4 percent over last year.

For the development of farming water sources, 522.1 billion won will be spent every year, up 59.8 percent from 1995, while some 189.6 billion won will be used for the arrangement of roads needed for the mechanization of farming methods, up almost 10-fold that spent last year.

For the mechanization of farming measures, the ministry will use 1.03 trillion won, an increase of 22 percent while providing 12.5 billion won annually for the distribution of direct rice seeding.

To facilitate the distribution of rice, the ministry will also set up 36 rice processing complexes every year across the nation with an investment of 41.6 billion won.

For the promotion of the competitiveness of the horticulture industry, the ministry will also invest 1.3 trillion won a year, up 51.5 percent from the current level of 680 billion won.

The ministry, in preparation for the opening of the fisheries market and declaration of the exclusive economic zone, is also planning to increase investment in the fisheries sector to 894.9 billion won per year, up 60.8 percent from last year.

The ratio of investment in fisheries filed to the total one will reach 11.2 percent during the 1996-1998 period from last year's 9.9 percent, a ministry official explained.

Burma

Burma: NLD Chairman's Letter to Than Shwe Published

BK0404024796 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 3 Apr 96

["Transcript" of letter from U Aung Shwe, chairman of NLD, to Senior General Than Shwe on March 25, 1996]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National League for Democracy 97-B West Shwegondine Road Bahan township, Rangoon

Ref: 060/Sec (Nyein)/96 Date: 25 March 1996

To: Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Burma

Subject: To arrange for the discussion and implementation of the Pyithu Hluttaw representative-elect for fixing a date for convene the first Pyithu Hluttaw (legislature)
1. In the Declaration No. 1/88 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) issued on 18 September 1988, the SLORC declared to the country that it was designed to carry out the following as its prime duties:

(a) Restoration of law and order, peace and tranquillity

(b) Smooth and secure transportation

(c) To work at its best to make the people's lives easy and to ensure the undertaking of private and cooperative sectors

(d) After having completed the above mentioned tasks, to hold multi-party general elections."

2. In paragraph 3 of the said Declaration 1/88, it urges that: "in order to be ready for the general elections, party organizations that are going to adopt a genuine democratic system may start establishing themselves."

3. Therefore with the intentions of an emergence of a genuine multi-party democratic state and of a democratic government that will guarantee basic human rights in conformity with the wishes and aspirations of the people, the National League for Democracy (NLD) has registered itself with the Multi- Party Democracy General Elections Commission under the Political Parties Registration Law (Law No. 4/88) enacted by the SLORC on 27 September 1988 and officially stands as a political party.

4. In order to elect members of parliament through free and fair multi-party democratic elections, the SLORC enacted the Pyithu Hluttaw Elections Law (Law No. 14/89) on 31 May 1989.

5. Moreover, in accordance with the Pyithu Hlattaw Election Rules (the Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission's Rules No. 1/89) issued by the Multi-Party Democracy General Elections Commission on 30 June 1989, the NLD contested the Multi-Party Democracy General Elections held on 27 May 1990.

6. The NLD won 392 seats out of 485 constituencies prescribed for the election. Hence it has won 82 per cent of the constituencies and this proves the magnitude of the support of the people (to the NLD).

7. In the Notification No. 896 on 3 July 1990, the Multi-party Democracy General Elections Commission officially recognized that 87.70 per cent of the NLD's representatives had been elected out of its 447 delegates. This again proves that it has attained the unanimous support of the people.

8. However the final report of the Multi-party Democracy General Elections Commission has not yet been issued. It is stated in "the Notification No. 1014 of the Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission" issued on 24 March 1992 as follows: ".... This Commission supervised the holding of the Multi-Party Democracy General Election and this election in the first election for adoption of a multi-party system in the Union of Burma. The election has already been held in accordance with the Pyithu Hlattaw Election Law and Rules. The Commission, in accordance with the Pyithu Hlattaw Election Law and Rules, is responsible for scrutinizing the issues of elected representatives as well as of those candidates unsuccessful in the elections."

9. At the coordination meeting between the Union of Burma Multi-Party Democracy General Elections Commission and chairman of sub-commissions of States, Division and Zones, the chairman of the Commission clearly stated the following: .... We have learnt that election tribunals are finalizing the issues of examining and judging the election objections.. ..the first stage of scrutinizing election expenses of a total of 2,201 delegates including the elected ones and the unsuccessful ones has already been completed.

10. Today in March 1996, the tasks of election tribunals regarding election objections as well as election expenses have already been completed.

11. The Multi-Party Democracy General Elections Commission is sending its notifications under the title of notifying the names of Elected Representatives in accordance with section 43 , sub-section (d) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, officially confirmed and informed the elected representatives that they are elected representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw. Similarly the names of these representatives were included in Burma Gazettes as elected Hluttaw Representatives. Hence Pyithu Hluttaw representatives elected at the 1990

Multi-Party Democracy General Elections are officially representatives.

12. In accordance with section 3 of Chapter 2: Formation of the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw shall be formed with the Hluttaw representatives who have been elected in accordance with this law from the Hluttaw constituencies.

The Hluttaw to be formed as such as clearly defined in sub-section (a), section (2) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law as follows:

Hluttaw means Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw now to be convened must not be the constituent assembly but it should be the peoples parliament of legislature.

13. In paragraph 12 of the SLORC Declaration 1/90 issued on 27 July 1990 in which the authorities directed all officially standing political parties to sign undertakings to abide by the declaration on that day, it is clearly stated to the country as follows:

In section 3 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, it is provided that The Hluttaw shall be formed with the Hluttaw representatives who have been elected in accordance with this law from the Hluttaw constituencies. In accordance with this provision, the SLORC will take care of the formation and convening of the Hluttaw....

14. In the 90th press conference of the SLORC Information Committee, it is clearly stated again as follows:

...In answering the question of whether there is a fixed date to convene the first Hluttaw, it will be carried out after elections, coordinating with elected representatives.

15. In accordance with Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law and Rules, with paragraph 12 of the SLORC Declaration No. 1/90, and with promises made at various press conference of the SLORC Information Committee, to implement the results of the 1990 Multi-Party Democracy General Elections which was held democratically and to give due respect to the wishes and aspiration of the people, the Pyithu Hluttaw must be convened.

16. In accordance with the clarification that reads: the SLORC will work for the implementation of the issued laws, orders and declarations, stated at the 97th Press Conference of the SLORC Information Committee, only when the task of forming and convening the Pyithu Hluttaw is promptly carried out, will it ensure its implementation of restoration of law and order.

17. It has now been nearly six years since the free and fair Multi-Party Democracy General Election was held. At this point we would like to remind you of the statement made at the 102nd Press Conference of the SLORC, that is:

...We cannot specify a definite time to convene the Hluttaw but we have no intention whatsoever to deny it...

This statement has been carefully noted by the entire mass of people as well as the NLD, the winning party at the election. Hence it is now necessary to convene the Pyithu Hluttaw as soon as possible.

18. According to standard practices not only of Burma but also of the international community, issues of convening the legislature do not take so much time. In accordance with the laws enacted by the SLORC, the Pyithu Hluttaw is to be formed with the Hluttaw representatives who have been duly and unanimously elected by the people so as to express their wishes and aspirations. There is no such practice of neglecting the wishes and aspirations of the people even in states exercising a single party system or an authoritarian system. Taking such a long time to convene the Pyithu Hluttaw not only means turning a blind eye on the wishes and aspirations of the people but also breaking the promises which the SLORC has given to the state and its citizens.

19. When study the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law (Law No. 14/89), there is no provision for the term of the Pyithu Hluttaw. The term is to be decided by the Hluttaw representatives themselves after convening the Hluttaw. Therefore as long as the Pyithu Hluttaw has not convened, the SLORC will not be able to head towards the emergence of a genuine democratic system as it has promised . In respect of this fact, only the Pyithu Hluttaw, formed in accordance with the results of the previous elections, are to enact general laws (including detailed provisions for future election).

20. With references to the facts stated above, you are hereby informed with special emphasis to arrange for the discussion and implementation of the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives-elect for fixing a date to convene the first Pyithu Hluttaw (legislature) as soon as possible.

By decision of the Central Committee Meeting of the NLD held on 22 March 1996. Signed: Aung Shwe, Chairman, National League for Democracy.

Burma: Khin Nyunt Receives Kachin National Leaders

BK0204150896 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], received Kachin National Leader U Zawng Hra and Members of the Leadership U Hsai Phong, Dr. La Ja, and U Ji Naw, who were accompanied by peace mediators U La Wom and U Hkun Myat from the peace-achieved Kachin State Special Region-2 at the Defense Services Guest House on Uyin Road at 1000 today.

Also present were Health Minister Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, Information Minister Major General Aye Kyaw, U Kyaw Tin, deputy minister of progress of border areas and national races and development affairs; Deputy Education Minister Dr. Than Nyunt, Lieutenant Colonel Sein Win, director general of SLORC office; departmental heads, and responsible personnel.

At the meeting, discussions were held on transportation, education, health, agriculture, economic development, and regional development issues.

Burma: Khin Nyunt Receives Kokang National Leaders

BK0404142996 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], received Kokang National Leader U Pheung Kya-Shin and Members of the Leadership U Pheung Kya-Fu, U Wan Kwe Cing, and U Li Kwe Cin, accompanied by peace mediators U Lao Hsing Han and U Lao Hsing Min from the peace-achieved Northern Shan State Special Region-2 at the Defense Services Guest House on Uyin Road at 1300 today.

Also present were Health Minister Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, Information Minister Major General Aye Kyaw, Education Minister U Pan Aung, U Kyaw Tin, deputy minister of progress of border areas and national races and development affairs; Deputy Construction Minister U Aung San, Deputy Forestry Affairs Minister U Aung Phone, Lieutenant Colonel Pe Nyein, director general of SLORC office; departmental heads, and responsible personnel.

At the meeting, discussions were held on transportation, education, health, agriculture, and regional development issues.

Burma: Khin Nyunt Receives Pa-O National Leaders

BK0304143896 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, received Pa-O National Leader U Tha Kalei and Member of the Leadership U Soe Aung Lwin from the peace-achieved [Southern Shan State Special Region-6] at the Defense Services Guest House on Uyin Road at 1000 today.

At the meeting, discussions were held on education, health, agriculture, economic development, transportation, and regional development issues.

Burma: General Warns Against Disturbances During Water Festival

BK0304155396 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Khin Maung Than, chairman of Yangon [Rangoon] Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of Yangon military command, attended and delivered an address at the coordination meeting on security and disciplinary matters concerning Yangon Division 1996 Traditional Maha Thingyan [Water Festival]. The meeting was held at the Meeting Hall of the Yangon Division Police Director's Office at 1600 today.

Commander Brig. Gen. Khin Maung Than noted that this meeting was convened to see to the happy and orderly participation of people in the traditional water festival and Myanmar [Burmese] New Year. Severe action will be taken and harsh sentences given to prevent the throwing of unclean water, ice packs, water balloons. This also extends to other water-throwing methods using harmful instruments to antagonize people which contradict Myanmar culture and tradition. He reminded that the water festival is a religious and an auspicious festival in Myanmar culture. Therefore, indecent attire, drunkenness, taking advantage of a religious festival politically, and any agitation to cause disturbances should be avoided.

He added that if any crime takes place, those responsible will be tried and sentenced the very same day in one of the 42 special tribunals set up in various townships in Yangon Division. Division, district, and township-level disciplinary committees will be formed to oversee discipline. The district and township-level disciplinary committees should be formed with township and ward law and order restoration council members, red cross and fire brigade members, and the people. The persons involved with the water-throwing pavilions or floats should also refrain from making speeches, behaving in ways, or using decorations and banners that are detrimental to the state, individuals, or organizations. Responsible persons then presented various reports.

The commander, in his closing speech, urged cooperation and coordination to see to the happy, secure, and disciplined participation of the people in the traditional water festival.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Russian MIG-29's Pass Accuracy Test In Air Exercise

BK0504074096 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Butterworth — The Russian MiG-29 made its debut in the annual "Top Gun" award competition here yesterday with high marks for its accuracy in air-to-air gunnery.

"Exercise Jaguh" deputy director Colonel Zakaria Salleh said this was the first time that the 10 fighter jets from two Kuantan-based squadrons were taking part in the annual 16-day exercise.

He said the MiGs performed "very well," hitting their targets accurately.

"The first two air-to-air gunnery sorties involving four MiGs and four British Aerospace Hawk aircrafts indicated that a tough fight is in store for the 24 pilots vying for the award," said Col. Zakaria, who is chief umpire for the exercise.

He said the results were expected to be good as both were new generation aircraft with automatic fire control and radar ranging.

Yesterday was the first phase of the exercise involving six jet fighter squadrons of the Hawk, the MiG-29 and the Northrop F-5E from here, Kuantan and Labuan.

The first phase, covering air-to-air gunnery, organised for the first time since 1987, will be held at the RMAF [Royal Malaysian Air Force] base here until Tuesday. The second and third phases will be held in Kuantan and Melaka.

The exercise would pick the "Top Gun" among 24 pilots, the best squadron and the best maintenance team.

Col. Zakaria, who is RMAF No. 1 Air Division chief-of-staff, said the exercise would also assess the effectiveness of the electronic scoring system, the Taxan Air-To-Air Target Scoring System.

"Every firing is electronically transmitted to the ground crew who tabulate score."

Malaysia: Gas Well Discovered Off Northeastern Coast

BK0404123896 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Petronas, National Petroleum, has made a gas discovery in the Bergading prospect, located about 175 kilometers off shore peninsular Malaysia. The prospect lies in the gas-prone area of Malaysia, and about 160 kilometers northwest of the Dulang oil field.

The well flows at a cumulative daily rate of 141 million standard cubic feet of gas and 3,680 barrels of condensate from six production test zones. Carigali, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petronas, is currently producing about 240 million standard cubic feet of gas per day from the Duyong gas field. It is undertaking the development of the Retak Beranang gas field which is scheduled to come on stream in late 1999.

The Bergading gas discovery would add significantly to the nation's gas reserve.

Singapore

Singapore Minister Notes "More Equal" U.S.-Asia Relationship

BK0404123796 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Apr 96 p 30

[Report by Chung Tsung Mien in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States' relationship with Asia is a more equal one today compared with the days when it "dispensed advice and favours" to Asia, said Information and the Arts and Health Minister George Yeo.

While the U.S. had accounted for about 40 per cent of the world's GNP during the period after World War II, this figure was now 25 per cent, he said.

Then, the U.S. could afford to ignore the world as it was the price-setter and other countries had to accept the world as defined by Americans.

"You are not in decline but you are certainly in relative decline. And what has happened is you now see between America and Asia a relationship based more on equality," he said at a lunch attended by about 20 American academics and representatives from government agencies, think-tanks and the private sector.

He recounted how, as a young boy, he had seen sacks of grain that the U.S. had given as aid to Third World countries from the surplus grain it produced.

While the U.S. would for a long time still remain "first among equals", the relationship would no longer be one where the U.S. "dispensed advice and favours" and Asian countries were the "applicants, supplicants, recipients", he said.

He made these points on Tuesday at the lunch hosted by the U.S. Information Agency and Citicorp for the Singapore Members of Parliament and press members in the Young People's Action Party (YP) delegation.

The YP group is on a 15-day study-cum-goodwill tour across four cities in the U.S. to learn more about the American political system.

Brigadier-General (NS [national service]) Yeo added that it had been American idealism that had helped bring about the transformation in Asia which had enabled the relationship to be on a more equal footing.

Had the U.S. been a more cynical imperial power, it would have made sure that a relationship of inequality persisted. Instead, America had educated young Asians from Japan, China and India and now these same countries were its competitors, he said at the La Colline Restaurant in the capital city.

He also noted that like the U.S., Singapore too shared the idealism of a society cutting across religious, cultural and tribal lines.

It was this commonality which had created lively and boisterous Singapore-U.S. ties, although there had been quarrels as in other close and intimate relationships.

But these had only served to deepen the understanding and respect between the two countries, he said, giving the example of American news organisation Dow Jones, which had enlarged its presence in Singapore.

In a 20-minute off-the-cuff speech, he also made the point that the U.S. should not become troubled by domestic concerns and turn isolationist or the next century would be a very troubled one.

While this scenario was unlikely to happen, he said, the U.S. had not wanted to be involved in European affairs but had been brought in twice by war to help decide the fate of the continent.

"If you leave Asia, it may have to be by another war that you come back and by which time the whole world would have paid a far heavier price," he said.

He said although Singapore might not always say it, "in our hearts we are rooting that you will renew yourself; that you will succeed".

The YP delegation, which had already visited Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, toured the White House and had a meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord yesterday before leaving for New York.

Singapore: Seychelles' Foreign Minister Begins Three-Day Visit

BK0504111196 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 48

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister, Mrs. Danielle Marie-Madeleine Jorre de St Jorre, called on her Singapore counterpart Prof S. Jayakumar yesterday.

Mrs. de St Jorre, who arrived in Singapore yesterday, is on a three-day official visit. She will call on Environment Minister Rear-Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean today.

Cambodia

Cambodia: U.S. Lower House Resolution Said 'Negative'

BK0504071296 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 5 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

["This Issue's Comment" by Seiha: "A Negative Resolution by the U.S. Lower House"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Lower House has just adopted a resolution urging its government to raise the issue of "human rights violations" at a meeting to be held in June by the countries donating aid to Cambodia. Although the resolution has been confirmed to be a noncoercive one, it appears to be too negative.

"Human rights violations" is the same old chorus repeatedly sung for the purpose of stirring opposition against the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC]. The move has not only focused on an issue that might cause a headache, but it has also posed a problem for which a consensus on rights, obligations, and legality has not yet been found.

Those who are in support of human rights and those who are required to discharge certain obligations have hurled accusations at each other, while the rule of law remains insufficient and has not yet been fully respected. While government leaders are talking painstakingly about the problem of filling stomachs, the human right group is seeking to talk about rights issues.

It would be wonderful if the issue of human rights were taken seriously into consideration purely for the sake of "human rights." It would, however, be a disaster should the issue of human rights become a weapon against the RGC to serve other political purposes.

In concrete terms, the human rights situation in Cambodia has gradually been improved. Although some problems still exist, the arrow has been pointing upward, that is, the movement toward implementing human rights in Cambodia is making headway.

In sum, it is asked that the Cambodian people should not be used as political hostages to protest "human rights violations." The people still badly need aid from all donor countries, which will further help improve respect for human rights and democracy in Cambodia.

What the stomach needs is not human rights but something else. The right to eat and human rights both need to be upheld in the same proportion. This is the absolute truth.

Cambodia: Ranariddh Speaks on Elections, Policy

BK0404135396 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 96

[Speech by First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh at the closing of a three-day seminar on the role of youths in Phnom Penh on 3 April — recorded; poor reception precludes fuller processing]

[FBIS Translated Summary] In his speech, First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh reviews the Royal Government's efforts to develop the education sector and gives advice to students and youths. He says: "Youths, students, and intellectuals should avoid letting themselves be used as a springboard for a political party or an individual. In brief, you should be free and given a political choice in accordance with your will and free choice [applause] because the country and nation rely on all of you." He calls on the students "to avoid disunity in Cambodian society, protracted war, corruption, violation, greed."

Turning to the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Ranariddh says: "I will try to resolve the border problem peacefully with Vietnam, based on the principles of international law and through political and diplomatic means and avoid using force."

Although students have told him that they would volunteer to fight to liberate Cambodian territory, Ranariddh says: "I promise that students and youths will not be affected. Youths should continue with their studies and complete their education to become great [?assets] and a foundation for the future of our beloved nation. Those in charge, for example the Khmer Royal Armed Forces and the national police force, have the sacred and legal duty to defend the territory and the integrity of our revered Cambodia [applause] Conscription, even voluntary, should always be avoided by the Royal Government."

"As a Cambodian and one of the nation's leaders, I will absolutely not accept the loss of Cambodian territory due to the greed of foreigners." [applause]. Ranariddh adds, "I have always said that nothing lasts forever. Only Cambodia belonging to Cambodians lasts forever." [applause]

Ranariddh goes on, "You should weigh things over before making a decision, have a high sense of responsibility, and confidence in yourselves that your acts are just ones that serve the supreme interests of the nation and the beloved motherland. You should also have confidence in defending the country's interests because no one loves Cambodia more than Cambodians." [applause]

Recalling King Norodom Sihanouk's statement a few days ago about liberal democracy and human rights in Cambodia, Ranariddh says "we have to respect human rights. However, the declaration of human rights was done following the path that was already made by Lord Buddha." "Therefore, if we simply abide by the teachings of the Master, we would have already become a nation that respects what is called human rights." [applause]

Concerning the election of commune heads in 1997 and the general election in 1998, Ranariddh says: "I would like to appeal that the election process be conducted with neutrality, justice, nonviolence, and liberal democracy to allow the people genuine freedom in exercising their rights and expressing their views. This is because elections is the guarantee of political stability and national union and national reconciliation." [applause]

Turning to foreign policy Ranariddh says "the Royal Government adheres to a stance of good relations with neighboring countries and the world. In 1997, our Kingdom of Cambodia will become a member of ASEAN."

Ranariddh also talks about the "six Mekong countries concept" saying that "this was my own idea given to the World Economic Forum in Singapore two years ago. Now ASEAN agrees that the six countries [southern China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia] could become a great economic force. Thus, ASEAN will adopt this idea as its own at its meeting in December. It has set up a special committee led by Prime Minister Mahathir himself to promote progress and contributions from not only ASEAN members but also from South Korea, and Japan. The European Union has also expresed its desire to take part in the development of the six Mekong countries." [applause]

Ranariddh then talks about a law dealing with corruption being drafted by the Royal Government which should be debated by the Council of Ministers in a week or two, and then speedily passed by the National Assembly. He says "the main objective is that once we have a law, it should apply to all Cambodian citizens. If we only apply the law to the poor and only to officials and civil servants who face hardship in their daily life, while wealthy officials or high-ranking leaders are exempted, this would be a disgrace for our Kingdom of Cambodia." [applause]

Ranariddh goes on to talk about justice saying "As a prime minister, I have to talk about the Justice Ministry. Our Justice Ministry has been much criticized by locals and foreigners. On the one hand, it has been said that justice should be impartial. On the other, if the Justice Ministry becomes unjust, it is not the Ministry of Justice that is criticized but the Royal Government. This is a very important point. Should the Royal Government get involved — and this would be wrong and against the constitutional principles? If not, the justice issue would bring great disgrace to Cambodia. Therefore, it is my view that we should most quickly set up the Supreme Council of Judges to ensure that judges and other professionals carry out their jobs accordingly, and with justice that is 100 percent impartial." [applause]

Ranariddh recalls several accounts of lawyers who said "there is no need to consult the law, a bribe would settle a court case" and says that "as a doctor of law, I am ashamed as a prime minister that the country's justice system does not rely on the law but on money instead."

Ending his speech, Ranariddh calls on students to take part in leading and building the country and says "you should have high responsibility for yourselves and have trust and love for the country at all times, solidly adhere to a firm stance of neutrality and not allow any individual or party to poison your spirit or conscience."

Handing over financial aid from the Royal Government to the seminar organizers, Ranariddh says the money is from "the national budget, meaning the nation, from the nation's representatives" and stresses that it is from "the nation, a neutral nation, a nation belonging to Cambodians and not to any party or individual. It is not money from a party or an individual. It is money from the entire Cambodian nation."

Cambodia: Ranariddh Says FUNCINPEC, CPP To Solve Remaining Problems

BK0504061296 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 5 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Saophoan]

[FBIS Translated Text] While saying that the current situation in Cambodia was calming down, Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh sent a message of greetings on 2 April to Samdech Hun Sen on the occasion of the latter's birthday on 4 April.

The message was regarded as a noteworthy "protocol" for the sake of the alliance between the two major political parties — the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP].

Although the situation is said to have been "cooling down" over the past few days, some observers are worried that there is still "a state of preparedness" on each side that the naked eye cannot discern.

In his 2 April message of greetings, the prince krompreah highly valued Samdech Hun Sen for his patriotic activities in defending the interests of the nation and people.

Shortly after receiving the message, Samdech Hun Sen sent a letter of thanks back to the prince krompreah, pointing out the latter's "spirit of warm cordiality and sincere cooperation at the helm of the Royal Government [RG]."

Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh disclosed at the inauguration of the fifth power generating plant in Phnom Penh on 2 April that he had never met with Samdech Hun Sen since the recent, gloomy incident. Speaking to reporters on that occasion, the prince said: "We, Samdech Hun Sen and Samdech Chea Sim on the one side and His Excellency Loy Simchheang and I on the other, will hold a bilateral meeting, and I think that we will be able again to solve the remaining problems."

Observers are concentrating on the forums the two major parties will use to overcome the recent somber situation.

Before leaving for Hong Kong on 26 March, the prince talked about the possibility of settling the problem through a bipartite committee; however, the committee has not yet begun its activities. It is therefore believed that the ability to solve the problem is beyond the committee's competence. A possible meeting between the two parties' leaders is now being broached. All in all, observers believe that the two major parties will strive to avoid a roundtable that can bring about "worries for the king."

The prince krompreah said he expected that the meeting would be held next week after Samdech Chea Sim, who is currently receiving medical treatment in Singapore, returned. The samdech left on the morning of 3 April, and according a schedule, he will return on 9 April.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Troops Reportedly Withdrew From Pailin

BK0504071996 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 5 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Peyatro]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking Khmer Royal Armed Forces official reported on 2 April that the Khmer Rouge [KR] rebels have all withdrawn from the town of Pailin. Defending KR forces were, however, positioned in heavily-built trenches and were turning cannons toward the town in readiness to intercept the government troops after they had all arrived.

It was reported that the KR rebels plan to use scores of fuel drums to produce homemade mines that can completely destroy tanks. Some mines have been laid as traps, while others have been planted under all appearances along the trails in areas south of Pang Roloem and north of Khieu and the Srang Thom hills.

In addition, the rebels also used bamboo to make leaf-covered tanks as decoys to lure government troops into the jungles near their barracks.

All in all, the senior officer being interviewed asserted that the government forces would not give up their efforts to hoist their banner in the town of Pailin.

Indonesia

Indonesia: Malaysian Minister Discusses SE Asian Priorities

BK0504075496 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 5 Apr 96

[Report by Rohaizad A. Rahim — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta — South-East Asian nations should give priority to programmes which enhance the people's quality of life, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday.

He said notions that countries in the region were building up their armed forces at the expense of social development were not only untrue but could create uneasiness.

"In this region, conflict is not an issue ... the governments should work on ways to get people out of poverty," he told reporters.

Syed Hamid is here leading a 12-member delegation on his first official visit.

He made a courtesy call on Indonesian Defence Minister Edi Sudrajat and also President Suharto before flying to Bandung where he was briefed on developments of the six CN-235 transport aircraft purchased by the RMAF [Royal Malaysian Air Force].

On his talks with Suharto, Syed Hamid said they discussed a wide range of issues, especially on bilateral co-operation.

He said the RMAF would receive the first three CN-235s this year and the remainder next year.

"I am impressed with the aircraft and confident that it will meet our requirements."

He said it was unlikely that Malaysians would venture into building such aircraft locally as it would not be viable.

"We will concentrate on providing component parts and ensure that there will not be any overlapping activities with Indonesia on the industry," he said.

Syed Hamid also commented that Indonesia had forged ahead in the aircraft building industry, especially in research and development as well as design.

Indonesia, he said, had a large domestic economic base which would make such ventures viable.

Indonesia: Daily Supports Jakarta's Role in Indian Ocean Forum

BK0404094296 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 4 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "The Indian Ocean Rim Initiative"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Indonesia will take part in a new grouping for economic cooperation. After being involved and even playing a major role in APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area], and the inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting, it will now be involved in the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative [IORI], a regional grouping for economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

Indonesia's certain participation in the grouping was visible in President's Suharto support for the idea when he received Louis Steven Abeegadoo, a special envoy of the prime minister of the Republic of Mauritius, at the Merdeka Palace on 2 April. The Mauritian envoy, who is also minister of fisheries and maritime affairs, specifically came to invite Indonesia to join the IORI.

Indonesia has been invited to join the Indian Ocean economic grouping apparently for two main reasons., rather than the fact that it is situated in the Indian Ocean.

First, Indonesia can no longer be underestimated in the world political and economic scene, primarily after it was hailed by many countries for successfully holding the APEC summit in Bogor in 1994. A number of grand ideas were born during the impressive gathering. The success has been further reinforced by Indonesia's positive synergy and role in other regional economic and trade groups.

Second, with a population of almost 200 million, Indonesia cannot be ignored in international economic and trade cooperation. It is not inconceivable that the seven IORI initiators — the Republic of South Africa, Tanzania, Oman, India, Singapore, Australia, and Mauritius itself — have looked at Indonesia due to its large and open market as well as in their respective political interests.

We must bear in mind the paramount importance of both reasons, so that Indonesia will not only realize its bargaining power [preceding two words in English] well, but also be able to use it to the fullest. If not, instead of "playing well" in the new economic grouping, Indonesia will become a sitting duck there and, possibly even so in other economic and trade groups.

Conditions are therefore needed. One of them — something classic but urgent — is to continue reforming the system and our national economic practices, which have not been free from harsh criticisms.

Of course, Indonesia has an interest in the new economic grouping. Five other countries (in addition to Malaysia) — Mozambique, Tanzania, Yemen, Madagascar, and Sri Lanka — will join the bloc. Those countries are potential markets for our local products. All of them are lucrative markets which have not been fully tapped by Indonesian businessmen.

For example (something for self-assesment), it is no secret that our domestic products, particularly plywood, have flooded the South African market. However, we do not know why it has been exported mainly through third countries (particularly Singapore and Japan). Will we also hear similar unpleasant news from the other IORI members?

May we be able to deal with not only South Africa, but also the other 14 members through the new economic grouping which is fully supported by President Suharto!

Indonesia: Ex-Communist Detainees Allowed To Vote in Election

BK0504072896 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 3 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government has restored the voting rights of 1,157,820 people involved in the G-30-S/PKI [30 September Movement/Indonesian Communist Party] so they can vote in the 1997 general election. These people are considered to have demonstrated their loyalty to the nation, country, and government as well as to the Pancasila ideology and the 1945 Constitution.

Home Affairs Minister Yogie S. Memet disclosed this to reporters through his spokesman, H.S.A. Yusac, on 2 April. The voting rights of Indonesian nationals involved in the G-30-S/PKI will also be discussed at a special coordinated meeting on politics and security affairs chaired by Susilo Sudarman next week.

Yusac said investigations had been conducted on those involved in the G-30-s/PKI based on home affairs ministerial decree no. 25/1995 so as to determine their eligibility to vote in the 1997 general election. [passage omitted on legal basis for investigations]

After the investigations, it was decided that 1,157,820 out of 1,178,526 people would have their voting rights restored, while 20,706 would still not be eligible to vote.

Replying to a question whether Subandrio, 81, a former deputy prime minister and foreign minister who was released from detention last August, would be allowed to vote, Yusac said the government still had to consider several factors. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Thailand: U.S. Trade Threat 'Political Ploy' To Win Clinton Votes

BK0404124096 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 4 Apr 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Nothing To Worry About"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government on Monday publicized an annual report for 1996 on commercial practices around the world with a list of countries including Thailand whose trade practices are allegedly detrimental to American enterprises in the United States. These countries could face punitive actions unless they correct the ways they trade with the United States. The report has to a certain extent frightened many countries including Thailand. So far, the United States has cut tax concessions on exports under the Generalized System of Preference for countries that have been enjoying surpluses in trade with the U.S. Lately, many countries also faced U.S. trade retaliations for their failure to protect the copyright of U.S. products and services.

So far, the U.S. has been fairly lenient in dealing with these countries, giving them opportunities to correct themselves. Thailand, for example, has been trying its best to suppress all forms of infringement of copyrights and patents of U.S. goods and services. Regardless of the report, we should not be worried about anything as long as we are honest and sincere in solving the problems in line with free trade practices. However, the leniency of the U.S. Government in dealing with countries that enjoy trade surpluses with the U.S. has been criticized by the American opposition. As the U.S. presidential election draws near, the latter has been exploiting this issue to discredit President Clinton' administration and the Democrat Party.

In his bid to undermine the popularity of President Bill Clinton and the Democrat Party, Republican U.S. presidential election candidate Pat Buchanan, a presidential election candidate pointed out that the mismanagement of trade with foreign countries by President Clinton and his administration has caused 2.2 million Americans to lose their jobs and huge trade deficits with those countries. However, Buchanan himself has not come up with any tangible solution to the problem either.

It is very likely that the issuance of the annual report on commercial practices worldwide by the U.S. Government was politically motivated. There should not be anything to worry about. As a matter of fact, Thailand and many other countries have always been "bullied" by the U.S. Government over trade issues. Suppose the Republican Party wins the November presidential election, it is believed that the new Republican administration will also be unable to solve the problem overnight. For this reason, there is no need for the Thai Government to panic over the "threatening voice" of the U.S. Government this time because it is merely a political ploy of the Clinton administration to win the hearts of American voters.

Thai Police Chief Orders Speedy Probe Into Japanese Hijacker

BK0404042096 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 4 Apr 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Police chief Phot Bunyachinda has ordered police to speed up their investigation of a suspected Japanese counterfeiter charged with duplicating US dollars.

Phot said investigators have been collecting evidence in order to present a strong case against the the 47 year-old Yomishi Tanaka.

Tanaka was arrested in Cambodia last week on charges of allegedly counterfeiting US dollars. Last Friday he was deported to Thailand, where he is wanted by police in Phatthaya for circulating counterfeited notes in the resort city last September.

Tanaka will be extradited to Japan if Thai authorities fail to find enough evidence within the next seven days, Pol Gen [Police General] Phot said.

Phot said the procedures of the investigation may be finished within 12 days, depending on the amount of evidence available.

Tanaka is believed to be the Red Army assailant who hijacked a Japan Airlines jet to North Korea in 1970.

The police chief added that Japan is the only country that has officially requested Thai authorities to extradite the Japanese national to face legal action in Japan, even though he has been on the international wanted list since 1988. Tanaka is also wanted by the United States.

Asked when legal actions are to begin, Phot said it depends on the prosecution, who decide whether or not he should have a lawsuit filed against him.

Phot said the case will take time if Tanaka is sued since he has to stand trial in court. Investigative procedures will not take time, he added.

Tanaka is being held at Chonburi province's Central Prison.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Suraphong Chaiyanam said yesterday that Thailand would be able to extradite Tanaka to Tokyo, despite the fact that the two countries do not have an extradition agreement.

"It's possible to extradite the fellow to Japan because he is Japanese," the spokesman said.

Thailand: Lao Refugees Expected To Emigrate to U. S.

BK0504114796 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 96 p A3

[Report by Rita Patiyasewi and Ratanawali Mahaphonsirikun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand expects some 4,000 Laotian Hmong hilltribe refugees living in the Ban Napho and Si Khiu camps to emigrate to the United States by the end of the year.

The secretary-general of the National Security Council (NSC), General Charan Kunlawanit, said on Wednesday that while Washington's last-ditch effort to give the Laotians a chance to resettle in the US is welcome, all 6,000 Hmong residing in the camps are encouraged to return home under the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indochinese Refugees (CPA).

The United States' recent release of emigration criteria, which will be effective for six months, will give those Hmong considered "prima facie [first glance] refugees" a chance to be resettled. Almost 250,000 Lao have resettled in the US since 1975.

Charan said providing better living standards in their own country was the key to solving the refugee problem.

Speaking at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, he said that while Burmese flee their country due to fighting or to find work, Cambodians and Laotians enter Thailand for safety and survival. "We [Thailand] try to help our neighbours improve the living standards of their people, which is the best way [to solve the refugee problem]," he said.

Citing the Cambodians as an example Charan noted that of the thousands of Cambodians who finally returned home after taking refuge on Thai soil, very few have come back despite the fact that there is still ongoing fighting.

"Even though there is still fighting in their country, very few came back to Thailand because of the better living conditions there," he said.

He said the Thai Government's policy is to provide a safe haven for those who flee their country as a result of fighting and also to promote peace in their country so that they will be able to return.

Of the 6,000 Laotian people in the camps, the Laotian Government has said it will take back only those who wished to return voluntarily.

Charan said if the Laotian Government was capable of providing basic infrastructure necessities such as water and roads and cultivating areas for agricultural purposes, many of the refugees would return.

In a separate development, the NSC yesterday instructed the Supreme Command and Interior Ministry to tighten control over the movement of Hmong hilltribe people in and out of the Wat Tham Krabok drug rehabilitation centre, NSC Chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit said.

Speaking after a special meeting of the National Security Board, Charan said the Supreme Command has been instructed to conduct a routine patrol along the Thai-Laotian border, in addition to the Tham Krabok area, to prevent Hmong refugees crossing back into Laos to stage anti-Vientiane activities, and illegal migrants from entering Thailand.

The NSC chief said the Interior Ministry will check whether residents of Tham Krabok have been involved in any hostile activities against Laos.

The meeting was held in response to a recent call by the Laotiap??nt of the Hmong, saying "We know who in the temple is involved in this activity."

Thai Minister Seeks Larger Telecommunications Role in China

BK0504040296 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 96 p 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Industry Minister Chaiwat Sinsuwong asked China to support Thailand's bid to enter its telecommunication and electronics industry.

Mr Chaiwat yesterday met with China's Electronics Industry Minister Hu Qili in Bangkok to push Thai telecom investors' bids to play a role in China's high-growth telecom industry.

TelecomAsia, a subsidiary of Charoen Phokkhaphan Group, and Thai Telephone and Telecommunication are pursuing opportunities to invest in China's telecom industry.

The Thai minister said Thai investors had the experience and ability to support the high telecom network demand in China.

Mr Chaiwat reiterated the Thai government's standing policy to promote supporting industries such as electronic parts.

He asked the Chinese government to consider raising imports of television tubes from Thailand. China is producing 20 million colour TV sets a year compared to the three million units Thailand produces annually.

"After Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha's visit to China, there is greater enthusiasm among Thai businessmen to group together to bid for investment projects in China. That will help China develop its economy," Mr Chaiwat said.

Thai Satellite Team Expected To Undergo Training in UK

BK0404131396 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Apr 96 p 19

[Report by Suphaphan Plengmaniphan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Britain will train Thai engineers to design and construct the first Thai-built satellite.

United Communication Industry Group announced the programme yesterday.

The project involves Thai Micro Satellite Co Ltd (TMSAT), a 50-50 joint venture between Thai Satellite Telecommunication (TSC), which is a subsidiary of UCOM, and Mahanakhon University.

The team is made up of 12 lecturers from Mahanakhon University, two engineers from TSC, and one observer each from the Thai Navy and Army. They will leave for Britain on April 12.

Dr Sitthichai Phukhayodom, president of Mahanakhon University, said the team would be trained at Surrey University.

It would then design and build the TMSAT-1 satellite costing about 300 million baht, within 15 months for launching in June 1997 on a Russian rocket.

The satellite would be used for educational purposes, he said.

Team leader Dr Suchat Chantharang, deputy rector of Mahanakhon University would return this July with equipment to construct a satellite earth station at the university's compound in Nong Chok.

Installation of the earth station would take two weeks and trials would be made linking it with nine satellites now in orbit. In future, the earth station would be a contact station with TMSAT-1.

Under the scheme, at least four more small satellites would be built at Mahanakhon University after the team returned from Surrey next year. The four satellites would have more capacity than TMSAT-1.

TMSAT-1 could photograph objects 40 metres or more above the ground. But the other satellites would be able to snap objects only half a metre from the ground.

The four satellites would be cheaper to make than TMSAT-1 as engineers would by then have more experience and be able to lower production costs, Dr Suchet said.

When all five satellites were in orbit, at least one would be over Thailand at any given time, he said. The four satellites would be used commercially and for national security purposes.

TSC marketing manager Ukrit Sethapulap said his company would not seek to run a military satellite if the armed forces insisted on using large satellites serving the X and KU frequency bands. But if the military used small satellites TSC could supply them using the X band.

Satellites for military purposes could cost more than 10 billion baht each if big units were required. But small satellites could cost 200-300 million baht each, he said.

The sending of Thai engineers to Britain was important for the country to become the satellite business centre for Southeast Asia.

TSC would negotiate for Asian countries to cooperate in the construction of small satellites in competition with Western builders, he said. If this could be achieved, satellite-building would become a significant business in Asia the region where satellites were most in use.

Thailand: Target for Trade With Romania Set at $100 Million

BK0504040596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 96 p 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand and Romania would try to push up the value of bilateral trade to US$100 million next year, according to Deputy Commerce Minister Phairot Suwannachawi.

Mr Phairot participated in a meeting of a joint trade committee with Ion Pargaru, his Romanian counterpart, to discuss the possibility of promoting two-way trade and eliminating trade barriers.

Thailand wanted Romania to reduce import tariffs on agricultural products because Romania has set them as high as 140% under its commitment with the World Trade Organisation.

Thailand asked Romania to reduce the rate to only 20-25% for products like rice, chicken, coffee, sugar, canned fruit and vegetables.

Romania has said it would consider reducing the tariff rate for farm, food and consumer products which are still needed for import. Romania has also asked Thailand to reduce import tariffs on fertiliser and machinery.

Mr Phairot said the value of bilateral trade increased to US$70 million last year, up from $50.5 million the previous year. Thailand's exports to Romania were worth $22.5 million while the value of its imports was $47.3 million.

Major export items from Thailand were footwear and parts, garments, plastic products, canned seafood, rice, fruit, cosmetics and rubber.

Mr Phairot also met Lajos Berenyi, Hungary's deputy minister of industry and trade, for discussions on tariff quotas set by Hungary on garments and rice.

Hungary said it would not collect an 8% surcharge on imports of any product, a policy that is likely to benefit Thai exporters.

Thailand wanted to import machinery, fertiliser and buses from Hungary. Hungary is interested in buying rice and footwear from Thailand.

Thailand: Kasemsamoson, Cambodia's Ing Huot Discuss Investment Pact

BK0504034796 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cambodia has ratified agreements to promote and protect Thai investment and tourism, Foreign Minister M.R. [Mom Ratchawong — royal title] Kasemsamoson Kasemsi was told yesterday.

Ing Huot, Cambodia's foreign minister, told M.R. Kasemsamoson in Bangkok the agreements, signed last year, would become effective 30 days after Phnom Penh sends a statement of ratification.

Mr Ing Huot has promised to send the statement on his return to Phnom Penh this evening.

Thailand ratified the agreements immediately after they were signed in March during a visit by Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The investment pact, which calls for the governments to facilitate and protect investors without discrimination, will run for 10 years but can be revoked if one party gives 12 months notice. The tourism pact will run for five years.

After the talks, a ceremony was held to hand over one million baht in aid in response to King Norodom Sihanouk's appeal for hospital supplies.

M.R. Kasemsamoson, who said the aid could benefit hospitals in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Mondolkiri, has asked the Public Health Ministry to help Cambodian medical facilities.

Mr Ing Huot said the Khmer Rouge remained a major security problem, but that it was being worked out. "We have been quite successful, which means the Khmer Rouge will become weaker and weaker. In the near future, it won't be a problem," he said.

He said efforts were being made to open border checkpoints at Khlong Luk-Poipet, linking Sa Kaeo and Banteay Meanchey, Hat Lek-Ban Pak Khlong, linking Trat and Koh Kong, and Chong Chom-O Smach, linking Surin and Preah Vihear.

Sources said checkpoints were not discussed between the ministers because the Thai-Cambodian Joint Commission is due to meet in June.

Mr Ing Huot arrived in Bangkok after submitting a formal application for full membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations next year with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in Jakarta.

A source said he asked for Thai support for the application, and M.R. Kasemsamoson obliged.

Mr Kasemsamoson supports us to be in the family of ASEAN in 1997, he said.

The ministers also discussed issues including funding for the Strung Mnum hydro-power project.

Thailand: Moei Reclamation Dispute With Burma Continues

BK0504060896 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 96 p A2

[Report by Somchit Rungchampratratsami]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MAE SOT — Burmese authorities in Myawadi are still not satisfied with Thailand's removal of reclaimed land in the Moei River and wants the area dredged further.

Speaking after a meeting of the joint Thai-Burmese border demarcation committee yesterday, official Thai sources said their Burmese counterparts demanded that Thailand continue dredging the earth that was used to reclaim land in the Moei River.

The sources said Thai officials were also unhappy with the Burmese construction of several barriers on the Moei River bank to curtail soil erosion despite several protests by Thailand.

They said Burmese authorities in Myawadi continued to build the erosion barriers along several sections even though Thailand has asked them to stop.

Sombun Sa-ngiambut, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Affairs Department, who is also the head of the 17-member Thai delegation to the joint meeting, was reluctant yesterday to make any comment about the talks.

He said he did not know if the Burmese would demand that Thailand continues its dredging and said the joint committee would meet again today.

In March, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha instructed the Highway Department and Mae Sot authorities to dredge the Moei watercourse and remove the earth that was used to reclaim land. He ordered the work be completed before he set off on an two-day official visit to Burma.

The Burmese junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), had demanded that Thailand dredge and remove all structures before it reopened Myawadi's border crossing and resumed construction of the nearly-completed Thai-Burmese bridge across the river.

Speaking after the two-hour meeting yesterday in Mae Sot, officials said they did not know when Slorc would allow construction of the bridge to continue.

They said the Burmese had not mentioned or indicated anything to do with the bridge during their talks. Burmese Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Winn headed the Burmese delegation at the meeting, while the committee comprised officials from the ministries of defence, foreign affairs, interior, communications and the National Security Council.

Thailand: Defense Council Discusses Military Strategy

BK0404135296 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In his capacity as chairman of the Defense Council, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha today attended the meeting of the council. The meeting discussed the strategy and structure of the armed forces.

Speaking to reporters about the outcome of the meeting, General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of National Security Council, said:

[Begin Charan recording] It was proposed that in principle the Army should be further developed with less personnel but higher efficiency. Meanwhile, the Royal Thai Air Force's efficiency must should be developed in line with the advancement of other air forces in the region. [End recording]

The meeting also discussed Thailand's national security policy in dealing with Cambodia in light of new developments there and their impact on the economy and security of the border areas. Thailand reaffirmed its policy not to give any support or shelter to any force that may cause unrest in that country.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said he has instructed the armed forces to coordinate with the Finance Ministry to prepare a priority list for arms purchases to help reduce the current account deficit and cope with the country's budgetary limitations.

Thailand: Banhan Clarifies Stand on Military's Arms Purchases

BK0504061196 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 96 p A2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha yesterday denied having said that the military's arms purchases were a major cause of the country's soaring current account deficit.

While acknowledging that it was necessary for the armed forces to buy weapons, he added that procurement should be on the basis of priority.

"Arms acquisition is important and necessary for the armed forces, but it will be better if procurement is set in terms of priority," the prime minister said.

"It will be a burden on the national budget if all weapons are purchased at the same time. Procurement should be delayed until an appropriate time."

On Wednesday, government spokesman Somsak Pritsananathakun said the premier will ask the military to draw up a priority list of arms purchases as part of the government's efforts to reduce the current account deficit.

He said the issue was discussed during a recent meeting of Chat Thai MPs at Banhan's residence.

He claimed participants at the meeting agreed that the "priority list" method will greatly help in reducing the country's current account deficit.

Banhan said yesterday that the meeting had only touched upon the issue in principle.

The armed forces' plans for modernizing their forces were recently completed and submitted to the Defence Council.

The Army is known to want new tanks, the Air Force F-18 jet fighters, the Navy submarines and the Supreme Command a military satellite.

Defence Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyut has pledged to keep defence spending at 2.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). In the 1997-98 budget, military spending is proposed to rise to seven per cent to [Thai baht] Bt107.6 billion. Its share of the total budget is 11 per cent, ranking third after the Interior and Education ministries.

Thailand's current account deficit has been estimated by the Bank of Thailand at Bt335.7 billion in 1995, or equivalent to 8.1 per cent of the country's GDP.

Somsak said yesterday the prime minister's request for a priority list does not mean that arms purchases will be cut.

"I want to tell the armed forces that the policy is not to hamper their ability to protect the country. We just want to reduce the current account deficit," he told THE NATION.

Thai Defense Minister Calls Satellite System Price 'Unrealistic'

BK0504031096 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Yuwadi Tunyasiri and Somchai Misane]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 28-billion-baht price tag on a military satellite system is too high even though the equipment is necessary for national security, Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Gen Chawalit, who appears to have doubts about the Navy's plans to buy two submarines, said the Government could not approve a satellite deal at what he considered an unrealistic price.

"I am not so gullible as to agree to a proposal to pay 28 billion baht for satellites," he said. "This will not happen as long as I am in this position."

Deputy Prime Minister Chawalit said he had come under heavy criticism over the satellite issue. "I have even been accused of changing the specifications of the satellites for concealed purposes."

He said 10 billion baht was already too high for the launch of three satellites, and the 28-billion-baht price set by the Defence Ministry was unrealistic. "It is well known that expenditure for this purpose cannot be that high," he said.

Gen Chawalit, who leads the New Aspiration Party, also conceded that Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat, whose business interests included satellites, was right to voice opposition to the plan.

He insisted he had not been in conflict with Phalang Tham leader Thaksin over the issue but said the military needs its own satellite system.

It was government policy for the Transport and Communications Ministry to develop communications technologies and acquire a military satellite system, he said.

Satellites would widen the scope of security agencies, give the armed forces enough information to enable them to reduce troop numbers in border areas and take six hours off the time it usually takes to send units to trouble spots.

Since the system would also facilitate the work of other state agencies, it would be worth investing in, he said.

Private-sector participation could offset budget restraints, said Gen Chawalit, citing the Din Daeng-Don Muang tollway and Hopewell mass transit system.

Since the satellite project was being submitted to the Cabinet, Gen Chawalit said he was duty-bound to explain the merits and necessity of an item of government policy.

Gen Chawalit showed less enthusiasm for the Navy's plans to spend 17 billion baht on two diesel submarines. The project required further discussion, he said, and the Navy must be able to explain if it is really necessary.

"If it is, I will give it full backing," he said. "If not, it should be put off. We have to give priority to what is really necessary."

He did not think a submarine purchase would prompt other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to stockpile weapons. During a recent seminar on ASEAN security, he said, there were talks about the need for cooperation.

"We don't want to see spending for stockpiling weapons. We want to make armed forces personnel more capable."

Gen Chawalit also said he wanted to know if there were grounds to suggestions Kockums, the Swedish submarine builder, had bribed government politicians to enhance its chances of winning a Thai order.

The allegations, he said, prompted him to suggest Kockums be excluded from bidding. The Swedish government had found the allegations groundless so the matter should be considered closed, he added.

Thai Army Chief: Delay in Weapons Purchases 'No Problem'

BK0504061596 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The armed forces will not have a problem if weapons purchases are delayed by the more immediate need to boost the country's economy, Army Commander-in-Chief Pramon Phalasin said yesterday.

"We have no problem (with a delay). We need weapons, but if arms purchases would adversely affect the country's economy, then they should be delayed," Gen Pramon said.

He said money should be spent only on arms that will directly benefit the country's security.

The Army does need certain new weapons to ensure it has the ability to fight effectively Pramon said. However, all purchases must first be approved by the Cabinet.

"We will listen to explanations. No officer wants the country's economy damaged. I am not angry at anyone," he said.

On Wednesday, government spokesman Somsak Pritsananthakun said Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha had asked the armed forces to draw up a priority list for arms purchases and said it was necessary in the face of the country's rising current account deficit.

After a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) yesterday, Banhan said he had asked the military to decide exactly which weapons were most urgently required.

"Each project is necessary. But you cannot buy all the weapons you want at the same time because we have only a limited budget," the premier said.

"If the military wants any weapons, it must coordinate with the Finance Ministry to get around the problem of the current account deficit."

NSC secretary-general Charan Kunlawanit said yesterday's meeting agreed that the armed forces should be streamlined, with fewer officers and greater efficiency.

The meeting also noted the military needed efficient personnel and weapons to protect the country, but military development required money, the NSC chief added.

Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said arms purchases were not the only factor contributing to the current account deficit.

Huge investments by state enterprises were also a major cause. But he said non-urgent arms procurements should be delayed.

There should be good grounds for any arms acquisition project, Amnuai pointed out.

Other projects such as education and health were also important, he added.

Thailand: Negotiations With 'Forum of the Poor' Prove Fruitless

BK0504054196 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 96 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first formal negotiations between four ad-hoc government subcommittees and 50 leaders of the Forum of the Poor — the umbrella group behind ongoing protests at Government House — yesterday collapsed due to a lack of authority and jurisdiction on the part of the subcommittees.

The subcommittees were set up on Wednesday by a committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Montri Phongphanit.

One subcommittee, led by Agriculture Minister Suwit Khunkitti which is responsible for problems related to forests and land, called off the talks when it was unable to set a specific deadline for issuing land ownership documents to villagers to whom they were promised many years ago in Nakhon Ratchasima's Sikhiu and Khon Buri districts.

The subcommittee led by Science and Environment Minister Yingphan Manasikan and joined by governors from the relevant provinces, stopped the meeting when forum leaders discovered the committee was not authorized to provide the [Thai baht] Bt50-per-day per family compensation they demanded for farmland expropriated for the construction of the Sirinthon Dam in 1968, and 15-rai plots of land for each family.

The subcommittee discussing compensation for toxic waste contamination, chaired by Public Health Minister Sano Thianthong, called off the discussion when the people's forum asked for speedy compensation and treatment funds for workers following the issuance of doctors' certificates.

Sano claimed he did not have the authority to make a decision on the request, nor on another proposal for long-term assistance and compensation for workers suffering from chemical contamination on the job.

The fourth subcommittee succeeded in reaching an agreement to forward two bills to resolve slum problems to Parliament for consideration.

However, talks over the second government centre in Suphan Buri ended inconclusively.

The group, which discussed problems stemming from development projects in urban areas overseen by Deputy Interior Minister Sonchai Montriwat, gave up the talks when the two sides clashed over the authenticity of each other's documents, and Sonchai claimed that the issue was beyond his jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, a number of Chat Phatthana MPs hotly attacked the government in an urgent five-hour session, accusing it of a lack of vision and sincerity in solving people's grievances.

Nakhon Ratchasima MP Chamlong Khrutkhunthot claimed the government also failed to provide security to forum leaders by citing the report that the life of Bamrung Khayotha, a front-line leader, had already been threatened.

Thailand: Banhan Vows To Solve Problems for Protesting Farmers

BK0404145796 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister promised to tackle the problems raised up by the Forum of the Poor, and that he would tackle them seriously and on a continual basis.

Speaking to newsmen during an interview this afternoon, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha was asked why he refused to meet farmers who demonstrated in front of Government House. The prime minister said that the problems raised by farmers are old problems, and that the governments in the past gave them promises without knowing whether or it was possible to solve the problems. Reasoning that he would not be able to do anything although he had met the protesters, Banhan says he has therefore chosen to hold a meeting with concerned authorities to come up with solutions. He has assigned Deputy Prime Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Deputy Prime Minister Montri Phongphanit to study the details of each problem raised by all protesting groups and to report the findings to him. Once this is done, he would then be able to promise farmers to solve their problems for them. He says he will follow up on the issue.

[Begin recording] [Banhan, in progress] ... told the two deputy prime ministers to study about the farmers' grievances. Once I am presented with the findings, then I will be able to promise the farmers that I would tackle the problems for them. Well, they are all old problems left from the past. I will find an end to them.

[Indistinct question]

[Banhan] Yes, in this connection, demonstrators should return home. There is no use in rallying. I have told Deputy Chongchai to provide them with water, and so forth. We sympathize with them. In fact, it was the fault of the authorities in some cases, and nothing has been done for the people. Some issues have been dragged on for 20 years. For example, dams. If the construction of dams really cause trouble to the people, it is then our duty to look after them. [End recording]

Deputy Prime Minister Montri Phongphanit, in his capacity as chairman of the task force committee to follow up work to solve farmers' grievances, confirmed that the authorities would take all possible measures to alleviate farmers' plight on condition that actions taken must be within the law.

[Begin Montri recording] The prime minister has assigned ... The prime minister said the government must follow up with whatever it has pledged to do. Yet, it is impossible for the people to expect results within a few days. Those problems they have are old problems, some of them as old as 20 years. Anyway, we will give farmers what is possible under the existing law. [End recording]

Premsak Phiayura, Member of parliament of Khon Kaen Province, New Aspiration Party, proposed that the issue be debated during parliamentary sessions to prevent it from becoming a big problem. He said the parliament is by status a venue to solve problems under a democratic system. Therefore, the ongoing issue should be placed on the agenda for debate. Parliament should push all the concerned authorities to make the effort and take actions most urgently needed to solve problems for the farmers.

Vietnam

SRV Paper Denounces FBI's Notice on Search for Spies

BK0404074796 Hanoi AN NINH THU DO in Vietnamese 31 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Mai Hoa from the Fighting "Peaceful Evolution" Strategy column]

[FBIS Translated Text] A historic lesson that no Vietnamese can forget was the policy of using the Vietnamese to rule the Vietnamese or using the Vietnamese to fight the Vietnamese, as seen during the period when Vietnam was still under foreign domination.

After annexing our country, the French colonialists divided it into three regions called Bac Ky, Trung Ky, and Nam Ky. Although each region had its own political system, all were, in fact, placed under French colonialist rule. The French colonialists sowed division between the lowland people and ethnic minority groups and incited confrontation between ethnic groups.

Although the U.S. neocolonialists' lackey regime in South Vietnam before 1995 was painted with the label of "democracy and independence," it failed to conceal those hands that provided it with dollars and weapons to employ the Vietnamese to kill the Vietnamese, with the climax of these activities being the introduction of the October 1959 law by the Ngo family, under which gallows were dragged around to execute communists. Then came the Vietnamization strategy of the hawkish President Nixon, under which puppet troops, equipped with U.S. weapons, were used as cannon fodder during anticommunist campaigns designed to suppress our people.

The reasons for the failure of the aforementioned dark schemes — for which billions of U.S. dollars were spent — were that they were unjust, not tolerated by the people, and condemned by progressive mankind. Twenty years later, after peace was restored in Vietnam, former U.S. Secretary of Defense McNamara admitted that the Vietnam war was a "tragic mistake" committed by the U.S. side.

Thus, have the U.S. neocolonialists already resigned themselves to accepting defeat, and do they happily advocate friendly relations with us? Let us examine these facts: Reactionary organizations among exiled Vietnamese are cropping up like mushrooms. Provided with weapons and dollars by their masters, these organizations are nurturing their hope for vengeance and for continued opposition and sabotage against us. Examples of these organizations are the Mai Van Hanh, Le Quoc Tuy, Vo Dai Ton, and Hoang Co Minh groups. Revanchist sentiments are still deeply engraved in the mind of a segment of former army generals and field-grade officers of the former regime, who have talked noisily and fiercely about various campaigns with such beautiful yet deceptive names as "Shifting the Flame Back to the Homeland," "The Democratic Wave," and "Facing Toward the Motherland." They have wooed, created troubles for, and issued threats against those overseas Vietnamese who, with progressive thinking, want to make their contributions to rebuilding their homeland.

In addition, international reactionary forces are striving to isolate and blockade our country in the hope of causing our people's regime to collapse. They have fielded their agents and spies to collect intelligence and bribe our cadres with economic contracts and additional schooling abroad.

The reason these "campaigns" and "waves" have been averted and spoiled can be ascribed partly to the fact that our people are fully aware of who their friends and enemies are. Our just cause and national interests are always linked. We have the full capability to overcome all ordeals in terms of energy, intelligence, and unity. With a stable political system, Vietnam has carried out economic reform and development and has overcome numerous crises. These have driven those policymakers with a hostile attitude toward Vietnam into isolation. Therefore, they are trying to readjust their plans and methods to make them current. Yet, their sole target remains the same: rejecting the rule of the Communist Party and destroying our regime.

Although fully aware of their intention and designs, we are still ready to close the past and face the future. We respect the independence and self-determination of other nations, and we demand that we also be treated the same way. We are determined to defend our national independence and dignity.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, recently published a notice in Vietnamese in a number of Vietnamese-language newspapers in California and Texas (where there are large Vietnamese communities), "urging those newly arrived refugees from Vietnam to help the U.S. administration" by denouncing to the FBI those underground (Vietnamese) communist intelligence groups now operating in the United States. UPI also quoted an FBI spokesman as openly confirming this fact.

This move has, of course, met with protest from the Vietnamese communities in the United States because they feel insulted and annoyed and in a state of mutual suspicion and confrontation. Not only has this adversely affected their dignity, but it has also caused difficulties in personal relations, business contacts, and the everyday lives of the Vietnamese communities in the United States.

How "careful" the FBI is in tending to the security of the United States! But why did they praise as "pioneering freedom and democracy fighters" those reactionary groups that had been given weapons and dirty dollars and had been sent to infiltrate into Vietnam to carry out sabotage activities?

How deeply rooted their anticommunist attitude is! How fierce is their determination to implement their cause?

We comply with and carry out our government's consistent policy on relations with other countries, which calls for equality and respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and for noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutually beneficial cooperation. We do not make indiscriminate remarks. The Vietnamese people are, by nature, merciful, altruistic, and generous to friends, irrespective of their nationalities.

By recalling the above incidents in order to expose the anticommunist and sabotage attitude of those opposed to the stability of our regime, we will become more vigilant while making steady headway along our chosen path.

SRV: Views Exchanged With Japan's Foreign Ministry

BK0304162296 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 3 — The third regular exchange of view between the Foreign Ministries of Vietnam and Japan was held here today.

The Vietnamese delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, and the Japanese side by Deputy Foreign Minister Shunji Yanai.

Vietnam and Japan are satisfied with the course of development of their friendship and cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields since the previous meeting in December 1994, and especially after the Japan visit by Party General Secretary Do Muoi. The two sides compared notes on practical measures to expand and deepen those ties.

While exchanging views on international and regional issues of common concern, the two sides agreed to boost bilateral cooperation, thus making a contribution to peace, cooperation and development in the Asian-Pacific region as well as the rest of the world.

The same day, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam received Mr. Shunji Yanai.

Also on hand at those occasions were Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Katsunari Suzuki and other officials of the two Foreign Ministries.

SRV: Netherlands Trade Minister Discusses Current Relations

BK0504090996 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW in English 18-24 Mar 96 p 17

[Interview with Netherlands' Minister for Foreign Trade Van Dok-Van Weele by VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW correspondents Le Quoc Vinh and Nhuyen Cong Toan; place, date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW] Despite the early arrival of Dutch merchants in Vietnam, the volume of two-way trade between our two countries remains modest today. Why is that?

[Van Dok-Van Weele] In 1994, the value of imports from Vietnam reached 164 million guilders (US$99.4 million), while that of exports to Vietnam was 49 million guilders (US$29.7 million). The figures might be modest but they will change significantly. In the first five years of this decade the trade volume between our two countries has already increased from 34.5 million guilders (US$20.9 million) to 213.6 million guilders (US$129.4 million).

In the next few years, you will find tremendous development of bilateral trade. The Netherlands is a real trading country. Sixty percent of our annual income is a consequence of trade.

However, despite the encouraging liberal measures which have recently been taken in Vietnam, Dutch businesses here still experience difficulties in several fields. The first is transparency in regulations, which are unclear and quick-changing. Issuance both in English and Vietnamese is desired. I have heard of hesitancy on the part of some Dutch companies because of the instability of the regulations in Vietnam.

The second difficulty is with Vietnam's regulations and restrictions with respect to doing business with foreign companies.

Third is the difficulty in getting licenses for all kinds of commercial activities, because of delays caused by bureaucracy. Another difficulty is the lack of clarity of whom to deal with: which ministries are involved, which authorities have to give their approval, who are the key decision-makers. Some companies are not well informed about the Government's procedure.

Then there is the difference between ways of doing business, especially the implementation of contracts which have already been concluded. In the Netherlands, signing a contract is the last step in a long negotiation, when in Vietnam it signifies the beginning.

I will be going to Vietnam for the coming Holland-Vietnam Trade Fair and I have already had a meeting with my business delegation on the difficulties and challenges. During my stay, I will have private talks with my counterpart, Le Van Triet, to discuss solutions. Some problems may be solved in one discussion, but others require long-term discussion. Fortunately, we have tough businessmen in our companies in Vietnam.

[VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW] How do you think the two nations can resolve the problems and improve trading activities, and what incentives should they have to encourage bilateral trade?

[Van Dok-Van Weele] The Netherlands' Government tries to help Dutch companies that want to business in Vietnam with development grants, for example. Our government, through the Ministry for Development Cooperation, can give aid in the form of a grant of 40 percent of the transaction amount in the case of export of capital goods, contractor activities and major service contracts, to a selected number of developing countries.

A major selection criterion is that the transaction must contribute to a lasting economic relation between the Netherlands and the recipient country. Furthermore, this form of development aid may not distort international trade. The maximum grant per project is 25 million guilders (US$15.2 million). With this amount it is possible to support transactions of up to 62.5 million guilders (US$37.9 million).

Trade may be also enhanced by the Economic Cooperation Projects Programme, which is designed to promote Dutch exports to non-Western/non-industrialised nations through activities aimed at bilateral economic cooperation with these countries. Two such projects will be offered to the Vietnamese Government during my upcoming visit.

Because the Netherlands considers Vietnam to be an important potential trading partner, our government has, since the opening up of Vietnam, visited several times. Recently, Prime Minister Kok (June 1995) and Minister of Agriculture van Aartsen (November 1995) paid visits with the aim of strengthening ties between our countries. Also, my coming visit will contribute to improved trading activities. A large delegation of 25 business people, all wanting to trade with or invest in Vietnam, will accompany me on my trip.

We are not coming empty-handed. The Netherlands is also supporting Vietnam through a development cooperation programme. The Netherlands assists Vietnam in reforming the institutions which play a central role the transitions towards a market-oriented economy. Projects include training of top Government officials assisting the Ministry Planning and Investment formulating a public investment plan.

[VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW] What types of commodities or goods are the Dutch expected to buy from Vietnam?

[Van Dok-Van Weele] At present, industries imports from Vietnam account for 85 percent of the total. The rest is agricultural products. The share of industrial goods is continuously rising.

The Netherlands is a outspoken advocate of free trade within the European Union (EU). Within the framework of the European customs union, any product from Vietnam can compete in the Netherlands' market.

[VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW] Since Vietnam and the EU have already signed a framework cooperation accord, in what fields do you think the Netherlands can build closer ties with Vietnam?

[Van Dok-Van Weele] Cooperation with the Netherlands is likely to take place in the fields of oil and gas, infrastructure, electricity supply and transmission, environmental techniques, agricultural techniques and machinery.

[VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW] Do you think Dutch investment is living up to its potential in Vietnam and what do you think the Vietnamese Government should due to boost investment from Dutch companies?

[Van Dok-Van Weele] Holland ranks 10th on the list of foreign investors at present (total investment is U.S.$350 million). But Dutch investment can still be boosted.

Dutch investors still experience some difficulties in Vietnam. Vietnam should create an attractive climate for investors. Further development of a market economy, admission to the World Trade Organisation, clear Vietnamese regulations and no disproportional delays by the bureaucracy will contribute to a better investment climate.

SAIGON GIAI PHONG Reviews Foreign Investment in Vietnam

BK0304135796 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 20 Mar 96 p 4

[Article by Doctor Nguyen Dinh Cat: "A General Assessment of Foreign Investment in Vietnam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Law on Foreign Investment was promulgated on 29 December 1987 and was amended and supplemented in June 1990 and December 1992 respectively. The law has reserved necessary preferential treatment for investors and has been termed by foreign mass media as "open and attractive." Nonetheless, six years after it came into operation, this law still displays a number of shortcomings that need to be overcome. According to Minister of Planning and Investment Professor Do Quoc Sam, it is expected that the revised draft law on foreign investment will be submitted to the National Assembly's October 1996 session for review.

Generally speaking, the rate of foreign investment in Vietnam during the 1988-95 period was high, and investment capital was distributed to various sectors as follows: $2,843.3 million in heavy industry; $1,289.4 million in oil and gas; $749.9 million in agro-forestry; $115.4 million in post and telegraph; $1,236.7 million in hotel; $3,348.3 million in tourism; $207.7 million in services; $167.4 million in finance and banking; $1,564.7 million in housing construction; $2,131.1 million in other sectors; $323.4 million in enterprise and processing zone; $1,697.7 million in light industry; $1,158.1 million in food industry; $3,044.1 million in hotel and office building; and $145.7 million in culture, education, and public health. The total amount was $20.63 billion. Altogether, 15 countries and territories have made investments worth at least $350 million each. They included Taiwan ($3,240 million), Hong Kong ($1,739 million), Japan ($1,736 million), Singapore ($1,696.6 million), South Korea ($1,443 million), Ireland ($1,448 million), Malaysia ($837 million), Australia ($758 million), the United States ($650 million), France ($603 million), Switzerland ($583 million), Great Britain ($474 million), Thailand ($454 million), Holland ($452 million), and Sweden ($374 million).

At the start of its open-door economic policy in 1988, Vietnam attracted only $0.35 billion in foreign investments. This figure stood at $7.5 billion in 1995. Hotel-tourism, hotel construction, and heavy industry alone accounted for more than $9 billion out of $20 billion of foreign investments in our country.

Under the national development strategy to the year 2000, the GDP is expected to increase twofold over the current level and an investment capital of $45-50 billion will be needed. Meanwhile, the volume of international aid is expected to stand at about $8-10 billion within the next five years whereas foreign investment is projected at $18-20 billion only. This means that we must mobilize about $20-25 billion from domestic sources to meet our national development goals.

To mobilize to the fullest extent all potential among the people and local investors, more than ever before, the state should work out more concrete policies and regulations to guarantee that local investors earn benefits commensurate with their contributions in terms of money and labor. Domestic investment potential is not insignificant at all because there is still a lot of idle money among the people and local private dealers.

In their 1995 year-end reviews, the United States' CNN, France's LE FIGARO MAGAZINE and LE MONDE, Russia's IZVESTIA and PRAVDA, China's RENMIN RIBAO, Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN, and Thailand's BANGKOK POST all maintained that Vietnam was integrating in the world community and was moving toward the 21st century along with other nations. They also proved that Vietnam had a bright future and would become one of Asia's dragons. Thanks to its correct open-door policy, Vietnam has great value in investment and joint ventures with foreign countries in all domains.

Because of the utter destruction caused by the 30-year war, Vietnam needs time and enormous foreign investment capital in terms of equipment, finance, and experience to turn itself from an underdeveloped country into an economically developed nation like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and other neighboring states. According to a number of observers, it will take Vietnam at least 10 years to reach that goal. In its remarks on 18 December 1995, the CNN maintained that with a contingent of highly-motivated and well-educated workers coupled with the people's high intellectual standard and the motto of "Vietnam wants to make friends with all countries in the world," Vietnam may reduce that time to five years. Our modest evaluation says it may take 15 years, or to the year 2010.

SRV: Provincial Party Officials Tour China

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 3 — A delegation of provincial party officials headed by Ms Ha Thi Khiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC) and secretary of the provincial party committee of Tuyen Quang, yesterday concluded a week-long working visit to China at the invitation of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPCCC).

The Vietnamese party officials held talks in Beijing with senior officials of the International Liaison Department and the Party Rural Policy Research Center of the CPC, during which the two sides compared notes on the process of economic reform and renovation in their respective countries. They exchanged experience in party building work at the grassroots level, implementing programmes on hunger eradication and poverty alleviation, and in rural modernisation.

While in China, the Vietnamese delegation was received by Li Shuzheng, alternate member of the CPCCC and head of the CPC International Liaison Department.

The Vietnamese delegation toured Tianjin city, and Guangzhou and Guangdong Provinces, where they called at local industrial and agricultural production establishments and some farmer households.

In a reception of the Vietnamese guests, Mr. Xie Fei, politburo member of the CPC and secretary of the party committee of Guangdong Province briefed them of his province's experience in economic development in poor highlands areas and the great achievements recorded by the local inhabitants in implementing economic renewal and an open-door policy. Mr. Xie Fei expressed his wish for further development of the friendly and cooperative ties between his province and Vietnamese localities.

SRV Prime Minister Discusses Central Highlands Potential

BK0404062096 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 Mar 96 pp 1, 3

[Article by SRV Prime Minister, PM, Vo Van Kiet: "The Momentum for Development of the Central Highlands Is in Our Minds and Hands"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the days before the Tet Binh Ty [New Year of the Rat] I was assigned by the Party Central Committee Political Bureau to visit the provinces in the Central Highlands to discuss with party committee standing members about their local party congresses and preparations for the Eighth National Party Congress, and to meet with the provincial people's committees.

Through the meetings with the members of the party committees and people's committees as well as in discussions on the general situation of and prospects for the Central Highlands provinces, and also through my own observations at the localities concerned, I obtained a very profound impression of the great potential for development in the Central Highlands. And at the same time, I also see clearer the difficulties and obstacles the party organizations and the people here are trying to overcome. The most important point that I need to point out is that the local party organizations have actually been implementing the party's renovation policy, thus gradually inspiring the great potential that lies within the people. In the past several years, the Central Highlands has recorded encouraging development results: its average annual GDP growth rate reached 9 percent; some provinces have even achieved growth rates higher than the average growth rate nationwide. During the most recent years, the Central Highlands has become self-sufficient in food production.

Worthy of note is that the socioeconomic development of the Central Highlands in past years has significantly contributed to the improvement of security and political stability of the region. The achievement has not only strengthened the capacity of the localities in terms of national defense, but is also helping to boost afforestation and the development of agricultural and forestry production. Economic activities have stretched further to faraway areas, and the implementation of a settled home and settled farming policy has been made easier and more widespread, thus creating more favorable conditions for the consolidation of security and social order in the region.

In our discussions, the greatest consensus was reached on the promising future of the Central Highlands. Hereunder, I wish to outline an evaluation of and make comments on the dynamic development prospects of the Central Highlands during the period 1996-2000.

I. The Great Potential of the Central Highlands

Possessing a strategic location in economic, political, and national defense terms, the Central Highlands lie between the two major economic regions of the country, one in the central region (Quang Nam-Danang and Quang Ngai) and the other in the South (Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, Dong Nai, Vung Tau, and Ba Ria). In the east it looks to many major ports along the central coast; and in the west it lies adjacent to southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia. With an area stretching over 56,083 km2, with diversified topographic locations and weather conditions, vast surface area and large tracts of forest, together with various precious minerals under its soil, the Central Highlands can be considered one of the naturally richest regions of the country.

Three fourths of the land surface in the Central Highlands has a high fertility rate, offering favorable conditions for large-scale plantations of rubber, coffee, tea, mulberry, cotton, and so forth. High-yield crops such as wet rice, manioc, corn, beans, and so forth are also suitable here. The Central Highlands has all the right conditions to be able to satisfy its own staple food demands. It is also possible to develop large grass meadows for cattle. Dalat city has an important advantage in the production of flowers and vegetables for domestic and export demand, apart from being a suitable location for the development of scientific and industrial research centers, as well as for tourism. Due to the absence of water conservancy projects, the Central Highlands still suffers lack of water, but the systems of the three rivers of Upper Se San, Upper Srepok, and Upper Ba flow through a total area of over 30,000 km2, constituting an important water source for the Central Highlands. The total volume of water from these rivers will be up to 50 billion cubic meters, which can generate a hydro-electricity capacity of about 2.6 million kilowatt (equivalent to 15 billion kilowatt per hour per year). Exploitable underground water can reach 3.5 million cubic meters daily. We are really in need of an overall strategy and the necessary plans to exploit and to protect these precious natural resources; these are the urgent issues that we need to address in the development plan for the Central Highlands.

The infrastructure of the Central Highlands in the immediate future is going to be weak. However, an important transportation system has been established in the region which include, on the vertical line, route No. 14; and on the horizontal line, routes Nos. 14B, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 40. In recent years, the government has strived to expand this transportation system and has helped the Central Highlands provinces to develop their local routes linked to 96 percent of all villages in the region. At present, the communications development plan up to the year 2000 is being implemented. Efforts are being made to ensure convenient and smooth transportation for the whole region in all seasons, expand routes to adjacent areas; and to meet demands in the production and circulation of goods, in tourism, and in the increased demand for services. About 32 percent of villages in the region are now supplied with electricity, thanks to the North-South 500-kilovolt power line, which has 800 km running pass the Central Highlands and an additional 200-kilovolt, 110-kilovolt, and 35-kilovolt power line system.

The current population of the Central Highlands is 2.5 million, with the work force at 35 percent of this total. Noteworthy is that the population of educated people has risen substantially, thus building up the number of skilled workers who have contributed positively to the region's economic development program in recent years. It is necessary to make satisfactory preparations — and to include incentives to attract enough workers from throughout the country — to increase the population in the Central Highlands in the next 10-15 years to 5-6 million to develop its potential.

Five years ago, Dac Lac was a poor province. However, thanks to the renovation policy, especially its efforts to cultivate coffee and rubber, engage in joint ventures, and to accelerate exports, it has achieved relatively rapid economic development. Other provinces in the Central Highlands share the same trend of development but at different rates. During the past five years, exports from the four Central Highlands provinces increased six fold, a rate no province has achieved. Two years ago, when the North-South 500-kilovolt power line was completed, some people in the Central Highlands said the power line just passed by the region without providing electricity to the local people! Today, one-third of all villages in the region have electricity supply and this will increased rapidly.

These realities show that if the Central Highlands' development program can be linked with the country's dynamic development, it will be able to muster the work force to develop its economy, to attract more foreign investment, and to export its products to the world market. In speaking on developing the potential of the Central Highlands, we must first look at it from this angle.

II. Carrying out tasks with a new concept

To engage in joint ventures to overcome difficulties and exploit advantages.

We still remember that five years ago the Central Highlands was the poorest and most underdeveloped region. In order to develop it, it is necessary for us to have a huge capital, make great efforts, and spend a lot of time and talent. To develop water conservancy projects in the region alone for the next five years, Minister of Water Conservancy Nguyen Cong Tan has asked the Government for 1,400 billion dong. There are many other tasks that need the same amount of capital or even more! Where can we mobilize such capital? We may just give up thinking of this!

Nevertheless, realities of the past several years in the Central Highlands have shown that first we must have a new concept. The gist of it is: party organizations of the Central Highlands must creatively apply our party's multisectorial economic policy to achieve self-reliance and development, to link the region's economic development with the nation's dynamic development, and to strongly promote foreign economic relations.

Simply speaking, we must not embark on economic development by purely using whatever available material or we have in hand to manufacture products we need and are able to produce. On the contrary, we must first think about the products that are in great demand and that will bring the greatest benefit to us, especially when we can mobilize our resources to produce them. This is the essence of the commodity-based economy. The special economic conditions of the Central Highlands, especially its ability to cultivate major specialized crops demand from us such thought and action.

Carrying out economic development in the Central Highlands in accordance with the true meaning of self-support without making any effort to exploit the advantages of the national economy and the comparative effects of the achievements of local economic development with those of foreign economic relations will render us unable to achieve successes, regardless of how much money we may invest. Decades ago, while carrying out renovation, we spent countless amounts of money as subsidies for coffee and rubber tree planting in the Central Highlands, and the results obtained were not as good as expected. Various coffee and rubber plantations in the region are currently investing mainly in technological development. They are stepping up agricultural production and services that support production and product marketing and are expanding their overseas market. Their production work involves promoting the family economy and contracting land out to the people.

The results obtained are very satisfactory: The Central Highlands have contributed greatly to making our country the world's fourth largest coffee exporter. The per capita annual income of a coffee grower in certain areas and at certain times has reached 30 million dong.

We have been aware of the advantages of long-term industrial crops in the Central Highlands, such as coffee, rubber, tea, and mulberry plants for silk-worm raising. While carrying out production and business in a dynamic and reasonable fashion as mentioned above, we must pay attention to carrying out intensive cultivation and, at the same time, must organize planning and reserve appropriate areas for short-term crops such as manioc and corn. We must link these efforts with the development of animal husbandry. It is necessary to mobilize raw materials to serve production and satisfactorily ensure the marketing of products. Production results will increase greatly if we can do this. This is also a way to use short-term crops as a means to finance the cultivation of long-term crops and to create and accumulate more sources of revenue to increasingly broaden the scale of production. Many families in the Central Highlands have developed their family economies and have become well-off thanks to this mode of economic development.

Carrying out afforestation and covering wasteland and bare hills with greenery are now no longer treated simply as an environmental protection method but rather as an economic measure in which forested trees are regarded as economic trees. Given the current demands in our country and in the world for timber and raw materials for the paper industry, it is even more necessary for us to regard forested trees as economic trees. To promptly cover wasteland and bare hills with greenery, we must view this task as an economic development measure. Experience obtained by a number of Southeast Asian countries and statistics provided by our country have also attested to the correctness of this conclusion. The Central Highlands now has 1.3 million hectares of wasteland and bare hills to be covered promptly with greenery. We must clamp down on the destruction of the environment and create new sources of raw materials.

Discussing the implementation of Program 327 at the meeting, Minister Nguyen Cong Tan suggested that we must adopt a preferential loans giving policy if we are to use in a more effective fashion the sources of capital reserved for Program 327 and to ensure higher economic results. This is in lieu of applying a subsidy system under which "unnecessary expenditures" used to account for one-third of the budget allocated to a targeted or, in certain cases, a wrongly-targeted locality. To do so, we must adopt policies to attract appropriate manpower resources from various areas throughout the country and must develop in a more satisfactory fashion the agricultural promotion system.

It is necessary to overcome the tendency to receive and depend on subsidies.

All the financial needs of various areas in the country are urgent; this is more so in the Central Highlands. This fact poses a great difficulty and, at the same time, also reflects a great demand for our national economic development. There is an old saying: "To make glue, we need starch." Given the current situation, however, it would be not pragmatic if we just sit waiting for financial assistance to come from the central budget or from other areas. What would happen to the state budget if every locality asked for permission to retain tax revenues and the other levies collected? What would happen if every locality preferred to work on a subsidy basis? For instance, work would only be done on the basis of the money received from the state, without worrying about the need to repay the state.

The above tendency will lead to the following two consequences: First, more money for urgent work will be nowhere to be found. Second, procrastination will reduce the already poor use-value of our small amount of capital even further.

I inspected the A-Giun-Ha irrigation dam while in Gia Lai. The dam has the capability to irrigate 8,000 hectares of ricefields. Although the construction of the dam itself is finished, 150 billion dong is still needed to complete an irrigation network and to install small generators. If we carry on the construction in the mode of accomplishing things on the basis of the money received, the project will run the risk of being carried over into the next century. Taking "two centuries" to build a project will be costly and wasteful. Why do we not think of mobilizing other sources of capital from among the people and borrowing money from the bank in order to shorten the time needed for construction and to make use of this valuable water source at an early date? Having the water and electricity available to irrigate the ricefields one or two years earlier than scheduled will save us a lot of money and benefit a lot of work. In so doing, the local people will be rich and appreciative of those direct benefits they will enjoy.

Everybody knows that, while the Central Highlands is facing a severe water shortage, 90 percent of its natural water resources are wasted. Even when the A Giun Ha dam is completed, up to seven-eighths of the water reserves at the dam must be drained off when the flooding is at its peak. The most difficult thing here is the psychology of reliance and subsidization. This causes me to hail Thai Binh Province and the two districts of Binh Luc and Xuan Thuy in Nam Ha Province. The party committees and people in these places have created many measures to mobilize local capital for the construction of paved public roads to all the residential communities in the swampy fields, thus causing numerous businesses and professions to blossom, changing the local socioeconomic situation and demonstrating the urbanization of the rural areas.

To mobilize all resources and use them economically.

In addition to the funding for local budgets, investment by the central government under various forms, as well as funding for socioeconomic development programs in the Central Highlands, is still inadequate to meet its development demand. This investment and funding is not small, however, compared to the total funding for the entire country. It is possible to say that, despite our limited financial resources, the government has never disregarded the investment or funding for the Central Highlands. The financial funding for this region is increasing in proportion with the national economic development. Nevertheless, the Central Highlands is still facing a severe capital shortage, which is an obvious demand for further development.

The issue of concern here is the low efficiency in utilizing financial resources. A great deal of resources have been used wastefully or have not been used. Many activities have taken place only for self-display or as a formality. Collection and spending have not been controlled tightly. Extravagance, arbitrary spending, and embezzlement are still common. It is necessary to pay particular attention to regrettable waste, losses, or negative actions in the use of funding for the elimination of starvation and to reduce poverty, for Program 327 (to cover empty land and bare hills with greenery), for a program to end the "third shift" in public schools, and other cultural and social programs. Many economic projects have been granted a large amount of capital and land, but they are causing the loss of hundreds of billion dong. This is unacceptable.

Like other areas in the entire country, the Central Highlands still lacks of measures to make frugality a public movement, noble character, lifestyle, moral standard, and necessary demand. It is important to stress that the Central Highlands is still poor about pressing the demand for development. Therefore, it is necessary to reasonably mobilize resources in the public and to use them economically.

We plan to build, broaden, and upgrade more than 300 km of public roads in the Central Highlands, especially National Route 14B, by the year 2000. The Ya Ly hydroelectricity power station and some electricity transformer stations will be operational by that time, thus doubling the electricity supply per head in the region. In the next five years, we will strive to cover 1.3 million hectares of empty land and bare hills with greenery, increase planting areas for industrial and agricultural trees 1.5 times, combine husbandry with local food processing, and double export values. This is the plan that we must fulfill so that we can totally eliminate starvation and reduce poverty for people living in isolated and border areas by the year 2000.

With the new outlook, specially in the current situation in which the Central Highlands can attract all business corporations, enterprises, and other resources in all localities to exploit its potential, the Central Highlands will be able to coordinate all of these decisive factors to create a region of prosperity and civilization.

III. Heightening the Party's Leadership Role

It is joyful to know that, with a thorough understanding of the Third Party Plenum Resolution, all party committees of the Central Highlands have paid special attention to the party building work in their preparation process for the Eighth National Party Congress. Reality has proved that achievements recorded in the party building work in the past years are an important cause for positive changes in the region. Party committees in the Central Highlands, however, must try harder to meet demands to increase internal unity, introduce young people into the contingent of cadres, prepare for subsequent generations of cadres, and improve the party building work in small ethnic groups. After many working sessions with various standing party committees in the region, I suggest the following issues for more consideration.

1. Link party-building work with the Central Highlands development strategy.

Speaking of the vanguard role and militancy of party organizations of the Central Highlands, we must first point out the need for party members — especially party committee echelons — to understand very clearly the situation, tasks, and development strategy of the Central Highlands. Local party organizations must fully understand the development needs and difficulties that the Central Highlands must face in the days ahead. Furthermore, they must be the first to work out adequate solutions to development-related issues, apply the party's general policy to the local situation, and take new measures to implement the Central Highlands development strategy. It is necessary to make adequate efforts to formulate development planning and strategy and to chart the best course of action for everyone to follow in order to make goals come true. Given the fact that the future of the Central Highlands depends on them, local party organizations must regard the aforementioned requirement as their most important political task.

Even more practical measures must be taken to implement this political task at the district, village, and hamlet levels. It is necessary to pay close attention to socioeconomic life and production and the business needs of the general public as well as of each household. It is important to note that the vanguard role and militancy of party members and party committee echelons must be reflected, first of all, through the ability to realize the people's aspirations and their daily problems in a timely and accurate manner and work out correct problem-solving methods based on the party's policies and lines.

I would like to bring the following special issue to the attention of party organizations: The process of promoting economic growth requires constant efforts to boost human resource development, ensure social welfare, encourage the practice of living and working within the bounds of law, guarantee democracy and justice, preserve and develop national traditions and cultural values, and firmly maintain national defense and security. These are important factors of socialist orientations. We must rally all of the people in the struggle for a better life and for the glory of our nation and must bear in mind that national independence and socialism are inviolable!

To this end, we must make constant efforts to train party members and party committee echelons and help them improve their intellectual standard, quality, and militancy. It is necessary to regard this political task as a key element of party activities and to take measures to gradually eliminate impractical or formalistic party activities.

2. Link party-building work with the implementation of the renovation line.

The achievements of the Central Highlands also show that only when local party organizations make an extra effort to effect changes for the better can the party-initiated renovation line be successfully implemented. These achievements also indicate that, if party committee echelons and party organizations lag behind in effecting changes for the better, their sluggishness will also adversely affect the renovation process.

In certain localities, many people have enriched themselves quickly thanks to coffee, cashew, or rubber planting and to other occupations and trading activities. Many nice houses have been built. Nonetheless, it becomes more and more difficult for the people to move in remote areas because of the lack of a convenient road system. Students still have to attend "third shift" class meetings. The forest land allotment mechanism and the household economy have brought about very positive results. We, however, still do not know about future developments and problems that may arise on the economomic and social fronts; nor do we have a clear picture of appropriate forms of cooperativization and industrialization. A lot of similar problems are raised regarding all aspects of life, and these require solutions! The responsibility for these tasks rests not only with higher-level party committee echelons but also with local committee echelons and local party committees.

This reminds me of some old stories about the implementation of the renovation policy, like the application for the contractual work system in Vinh Phu, the granting of state subsidies to wage earners in Long An.... If local party organizations are sensitive to real life situations and keep everything under control, they will find new ways of doing things and will henceforth help to advance the national renovation process a step further. Our national industrialization and modernization program based on socialist orientations will undergo more dynamic and more profound changes in the days ahead. Each party member and each party organization should make sure that they will not be left behind in the dynamic development of the whole nation! It is important that we base ourselves on the results of the implementation of the party- initiated renovation line to define the contents of the party-building work of each party cell, party chapter, and party organization. The improvement of the local situation and quick progress will be the criteria for evaluating the quality of party-building work of each party cell, party chapter, and party organization. Only by making constant efforts to effect changes for the better can we survive and continue to help the party uphold its leadership role and meet the requirements of the revolution and score achievements.

In conclusion, I am positive about the bright prospects of the Central Highlands. The revolutionary undertaking belongs to the masses. This is also true with regard to the cause of national construction and the defense of our socialist fatherland and the renovation and economic development process. As a result of their stalwartness and creativity, the party organizations and people of different ethnic groups in the Central Highlands have contributed glorious pages to the wars of resistance and the struggle for national construction and defense. Over the recent years of implementing the renovation policy, they have scored many encouraging and even spectacular socioeconomic achievements!

It is certain that by firmly grasping party policies and lines, by promoting the bloc of national unity, by creatively applying the multisectoral economic development policy, and by upholding the sense of national pride and love for the country, the party organizations of the Central Highlands will bring into full play the aggregate strength of the local people of different ethnic groups and will score even greater achievements in the framework of the national industrialization and modernization program. Undoubtedly, by making concerted efforts to effect changes for the better in all domains, the Central Highlands will, together with the entire country, help the Eighth National Party Congress take our country to a new step of development.

SRV: Party Issues Directive on Youth Work

BK0504025796 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Mar 96 pp 1, 3

["Text of directive" on accelerating Party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum Resolution on "Youth Work in the New Period"; issued on 20 March by CPV Central Committee Secretariat]

[FBIS Translated Text] **I. The Current Situation of Youth and Youth Work:**

1. The situation of youth: After over three years implementing the Party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum Resolution (Fourth Plenum Resolution), the youth movement has made good progress. Solid progress has been seen in areas such as educational standards; dynamism; patriotism; the determination to eradicate poverty, backwardness, and lagging further behind others; self-reliance; self-determination; preparation for future careers; and so forth.

The vast majority of our youth support and participate actively in the country's renovation undertaking. The objectives of a prosperous people, a strong country, and an equitable and advanced society have attracted strong participation by the youth in the implementation of all the lines and policies of the party and the state in socioeconomics and national defense. More and more youth groups and individuals have been acknowledged as outstanding and talented in their activities in various fields. The trust of youth in the party leadership and in the success of the renovation undertaking has been consolidated and strengthened. Young people are paying more attention to domestic and international political and socioeconomic affairs. They are also participating actively in the protection of political stability, which is essential for the construction and development of the country. Their attitudes of self-reliance and self-determination are more intense than before.

However, some of the youth still have a vague understanding of political issues, fail to set up clear goals for their lives, lack the will to overcome difficulties, are indifferent to and irresponsible concerning family and society, and lead pragmatic lifestyles. The difficulties currently being faced by young people such as unemployment, lack of occupational skills, illiteracy, poor health and resilience, and so forth, though having been attended to at a certain level, remain serious problems. Efforts to curb social vices such as drug addiction, prostitution, gambling, and delinquency among youth have not yielded any noteworthy results.

2. Youth work:

Since the promulgation of the Fourth Plenum Resolution, all levels of party committees, administrations, the fatherland front, and mass organizations have paid more attention to youth work. Many provincial and city party committees, ministries, sectors, the fatherland front, and mass organizations have set up plans for youth work (to receive regular reports from the Youth Union; take care of the development and demands of the Youth Union, the Youth Association, and the Teenager Group; promote party recruitment among youth; and so forth). The government has also launched various concrete policies and socioeconomic programs to mobilize the youth force. Legal documents related to youth are in the process of being perfected.

The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (Youth Union) has put a lot of effort into the political orientation and development of the youth movement and recorded significant progress. The activities of the Youth Union have become more suitable for the new period and closer to other socioeconomic and national defense programs, especially programs that take care of the interests of the youth. The union development task has seen positive changes. The numbers of youth admitted to the Youth Union, outstanding Youth Union members, and steadfast Youth Union groups are increasing. The tasks of youth mobilization and unity development among the youth have been strengthened with diversified contents, methods, and forms, resulting in more and more of the youth being attracted to youth organizations. The role and prestige of the Youth Union among young people have been raised to new heights.

The progress in youth work, however, still shows flaws and shortcomings when compared with the demands determined by the Fourth Plenum Resolution. Many party committees have paid too little attention to the task of guiding the youth movement, left the burden of youth work to the Youth Union, lacked decisiveness in leading the implementation of youth work, and have not yet realized that the Youth Union development work is an indispensable part of party building and development. At many places, favorable conditions for the development of youth have not been created. Policies related to youth and youth work have not been turned into concrete regulations. The organization and maintenance of regular activity for youth by the Youth Union in units at the grassroots level, private business establishments, joint ventures with foreigners, remote areas inhabited by minority ethnic people, and among Catholic youth are still inadequate. The numbers of new recruits to the Youth Union and Youth Association are too low when compared with the total youth population.

II. A number of lines and measures for accelerating the implementation of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution in the days ahead.

To continue implementing the party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution during the stage of national industrialization and modernization, we should concentrate efforts on carrying out the following tasks in the days ahead:

1. Continue to firmly grasp and effectively implement the party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution within the party, at various state agencies, and mass organizations. Strive to include various youth-related issues in the agenda of party organization congresses at various levels and in formulating youth action programs for the days ahead. This should be done on the basis of a correct evaluation of the situation, the results, and experiences in implementing the Party Central Committee's fourth plenum resolution. Efforts should be made to clearly define the responsibilities of families, the state, sectors, and mass organizations in fostering and developing the youth force.

It is essential to strengthen the leadership of various party committee echelons over the youth union and its activities at each level in all localities; strive to consider the youth union building task as an important part and parcel of the party building task.

2. Guide the mass media, schools, families, and mass organizations to attach importance to providing the youth with education in politics, patriotism, the revolutionary tradition, and national cultural characteristics; help the youth to clearly understand the situation in the country to encourage them to enhance their responsibility toward the nation, society, and their families; educate them to turn their minds toward what is true, worthy, and beautiful, thereby contributing to the efforts to attain the goal of a prosperous people, a powerful country, and an equitable and civilized society. Various schools should attach importance to teaching students and pupils the party lines and policies, Marxist-Leninist ideology, and Ho Chi Minh thought.

3. Pay more attention to developing the youth work force to meet requirements in national industrialization and modernization.

Efforts should be made to strengthen the task on eliminating illiteracy and effectively carry out the universalization of elementary education, especially for youth and teenagers in the highlands and remote areas. To carry out this task, it is essential to mobilize youth from various youth voluntary teams, the Assault Youth, the Border Defense Force, and students. The state should design a mechanism and formulate a policy on creating favorable conditions for the Youth Union and youth associations to organize these forces and to extensively mobilize other forces in society to participate in the campaign to eliminate illiteracy and universalize elementary education.

The state should formulate an appropriate policy (such as a policy on granting scholarships, providing living quarters for students, developing boarding schools for ethnic minorities and other supplementary education institutions, and so forth) aimed at creating conditions for the youth, especially young workers, children of families who have given meritorious service to the state, youth from poor families, and ethnic youth from mountainous and remote areas, to have an opportunity to study to enhance their educational and occupational background; and create means for the training of cadres for various sectors and echelons.

More investment should be made to improve the quality of the material bases, the contingent of teachers, training programs on improving education and training, high quality training centers, development centers for gifted students, and youth clubs for scientific-technological studies. It is necessary to encourage the youth to apply various scientific-technological transfer projects to production and daily life; to increase funds to promote education and talent; to quickly detect young intellectuals and formulate a plan to train and foster them in various domains; and to formulate plans to use and develop young intellectuals, especially in the scientific-technological field.

It is necessary also to formulate a plan for popularizing occupations for the youth (including agricultural occupation); provide vocational training for youth in the Army; and to strengthen training for technicians and young, competent technical workers to meet the requirements of national industrialization and modernization.

Efforts should be made to formulate a plan for fostering and training young cadres especially female cadres; and to increase the number of young qualified members and deputies of the National Assembly, the People's Council, and various echelons of the administration and mass organization, thereby building up the contingent of competent cadres who will continue carrying out the revolutionary cause of our party and nation.

4. Pay special attention to creating more jobs for the youth. The state should continue to mobilize various resources for employment programs, including efforts to expand vocational training and the orientation network

to enable youth to engage in various occupations and services. Efforts should be focused on investing and developing various production branches that can accommodate more workers and establish new working sites. It is essential to have a general plan for resolving the unemployment problem for the youth at the national level.

To continue the creation and encouragement of favorable conditions for youth to implement socioeconomic development projects, especially projects in transportation, afforestation, sea bed encroachment, covering empty land and bare hills with greenery, wasteland rehabilitation, migrating to new economic zones, small job creation projects, development of pioneer youth group, development of young intellectuals, and so forth. The Youth Union will also receive intense investment in both terms of budget and management capacity improvement so that it will become competent in organizing and mobilizing large numbers of youth to participate in these programs and projects.

5. To establish networks of cultural, sports, and entertainment centers in cities, towns, industrial zones, and so forth. Wards and communes should reserve appropriate land for the building of entertainment facilities for young people and children. In the short term, all premises in the culture and information sector should have plans to serve young people.

6. To heighten the responsibility of state agencies from central to local levels for youth work. The government is urged to work out a national plan on youth development that will create favorable conditions for young people to prepare for their participation in the country's modernization and industrialization processes.

7. To create a healthy environment for young people. To focus on solutions to urgent issues such as the restoration of social order and discipline, especially in the cultural field, and the prevention and control of social vices.

8. To strengthen the responsibility of the family in the education and care of youth; the responsibility of cadres and party members in setting themselves as good models for youth; and the responsibility of party committees and administrations at various levels, the fatherland front, and mass organizations for youth and youth work in accordance with the Fourth Plenum Resolution.

9. Under the leadership of the party, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union should become steadfast in all aspects. The organizational structure and quality of its activities should be constantly improved, especially at the grassroots level. Party and administration authorities need to create favorable conditions as well as to put in appropriate investment to help the Youth Union realize its objective of motivating the youth force, making it worthy of its role as a vanguard force and the trustworthy reserve force for the party. Party and administration authorities also need to work with schools, families, and society to foster the development of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenager Group and look after the education of teenagers and children.

To develop and heighten the operational effectiveness of the Vietnam United Youth Association and the Vietnam Students Association.

To expand youth activity in the international arena in accordance with the lines and policy of the party and state on foreign relations. The Youth Union will also carry out economic activities in accordance with the state law to supplement the budgets of the Youth Union and the United Youth Association.

10. The state will produce a law on youth and have a policy on encouraging the youth and young intellectuals to come to all regions of the country, including disadvantaged localities, to contribute to national construction and protection.

III. Realization Plan:

1. Party committees, administrative, fatherland front, and mass organizations at all levels should have a thorough understanding before working out plans to implement this directive.

In the short term, during the following holidays in 1996: the 65th founding anniversary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union on 26 March; the 40th anniversary day of the Vietnam United Youth Association on 15 October; and the 55th founding anniversary of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenager Group on 15 May, all party committees, sectors and echelons should help the Youth Union cadres launch education campaigns on the glorious revolutionary tradition of many generations of Vietnamese youth and teenagers and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. Also, on these occasions, development work should be pushed a step forward, and large numbers of youth should be recruited to the Youth Association and Teenager Group, as well as to other revolutionary movements initiated by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union.

— The Party Central Committee's Ideology and Culture Department will direct the propaganda on public mass media, and coordinate with the Youth Union Central Committee on the propaganda for the holidays. The propaganda should focus on new issues for the youth in general and for the Youth Union, the Youth Association, the Students Association, and the Teenager Group in particular.

— Party committees at all levels will direct respective administration authorities and other sectors and mass organizations to create favorable conditions for all youth organizations in their celebration of the aforementioned holidays. All celebrations should be practical and educative, and all wasteful and pretentious activities should be avoided. The organization of the celebrations should be attached to emulative campaigns that call for outstanding acts of merit to greet the Eighth National Party Congress.

The Party Central Committee's Secretariat agrees to the recommendation by the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union that 26 March be called "the Youth Union Founding Anniversary — Vietnam Youth Day."

2. The government is urged to continue its work in realizing the stipulations of the Party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum Resolution and of this directive on state regulations.

3. The Party Central Committee's Mass Mobilization Department, the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, and the Vietnam Youth Committee are to work out a plan to implement this directive.

SRV: Defense Minister Addresses Academy Congress

BK0504053296 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Mar 96 pp 1, 4

[Speech by Senior General Doan Khue, member of Party Central Committee Political Bureau and National Defense minister, delivered at a party congress of the National Defense Academy; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear comrades: First of all on behalf of the Party Central Committee Military Commission and leaders of the Ministry of National Defense, I welcome all the delegates to this party congress. You are outstanding party members who represent the prowess and combat power of the party organization of the National Defense Academy. I trust that you will fulfill your noble duty and that your party congress will be a great success.

The decision of our party and state to transform the former Advanced Military Academy into the present National Defense Academy marks a new development step in the perception of personnel training and further training in national defense and security.

The change is bringing new, comprehensive, and profound demands to which we have to respond urgently in an environment full of complications.

The party organization of your academy has reached the level required by the targets, widened the categories for trainees, upgraded the training curriculum, and continually improved the teaching and learning methods. The academy has risen from merely providing military training to giving a higher level of comprehensive knowledge in national defense and in the social sciences and the humanities, and being responsible for further training for a wider range of high-ranking cadres of the party and state in military and national defense policies, as well as for commanding staff at tactical and strategic levels with post-university education. The academy has firmly taken up the most urgent duty to fight against the "peaceful evolution" and subversive forces, and quickly turned them into an important content of the training program. You have attached importance to the development of traditional military art in our particular conditions and realities. You have encouraged experimental practices and independent and creative thinking among learners, highlighted the relations between theory and reality, mobilized a widespread scientific research movement, and expanded cooperation with other agencies and schools in and out of the Army, thus gradually upgrading the general knowledge of instructors. You have also been active in building up training and research guidelines, and improving the cultural life and physical facilities of the academy.

The academy has focused on inculcating loyalty to the revolutionary undertaking of our people and party, a staunch political acumen, and high moral standards and healthy lifestyles. The party building work has been well tended to, with many party organizations and chapters at grassroots level being acknowledged as pure and steadfast.

With all these active efforts, the academy has contributed significantly to the training and further training of high-ranking cadres of the Army in the new period, and has therefore made important contributions to the building of a revolutionary and competent people's armed forces, and to the process of the modernization of state management in national defense agencies at various levels.

The National Defense Academy is worthy of the love and trust of the party, state, people, and Army.

Being a people's revolutionary army with a determination to fight for victory and a readiness to defeat all hostile forces in any circumstances, we are not allowed to be content and relaxed. Your achievement is only the beginning when compared to the role and duties that have been assigned to your academy. At this party congress, you need to point out the existing shortcomings with an attitude of serious criticism and self-criticism, and to work out measures to rectify them.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, I heartily compliment your academy for your achievement and progress. I would also like to express my gratitude to the leaders of the party and state, ministries and government agencies, sectors and localities that have heartily assisted and created favorable conditions for the National Defense Academy to fulfill its duty.

In the years to come, our country will be moving into the industrialization and modernization era. The renovation undertaking of our people will surely take a new and dynamic development step against an international background that is continuing to witness many profound and complicated changes.

The industrialization and modernization of our country is a great undertaking. During over a half of century of fighting against colonialism and feudalism to regain national independence, and carrying out resistance against the French and the Americans to protect the fatherland and unify the country, our people and party have always searched for ways to create conditions for that great undertaking.

The industrialization and modernization undertaking will transform our country from a poor and underdeveloped agricultural country to an industrialized one with high living standards, a prosperous people, a strong nation, an equitable and advanced society, a powerful national defense capacity, and firm protection of national independence and unification, moving on the socialist path.

That great undertaking is our ideal and also a logical objective of the development process of our country in the new period, the period of transition from capitalism to socialism.

Together with all the people and the party, all the armed forces are happy and completely prepared to do their best to contribute to the fulfillment of this strategic resolution.

Having been educated carefully by the party, and through our bloody combat and training experiences, all our armed forces, especially the contingent of middle- and high-ranking cadres, understand profoundly the natural rule: the great undertaking of industrialization and modernization following the socialism path will bring upon us the heavy responsibility of protecting our socialist fatherland. The two duties of national construction and protection should be combined closely and harmoniously. The achievements our people have recorded so far are creating new opportunities for development, but four major areas of danger still stand as big challenges to us. Being the vanguard on the national defense front, we should fully understand all the dangers in each of these challenging areas as well as how they link up. Special attention should be given to the study of regional, international, and domestic affairs, the evaluation of "peaceful evolution" and subversive violence schemes and tricks, and the study of the possibilities, levels, and methods that the hostile forces might employ to interfere and undermine us for their objectives of eliminating national independence and the socialist outlook in our country. We should also strengthen education and propaganda work among all the people's revolutionary forces and people's armed forces, equip them with a strong sense of vigilance, and strive to be truly prepared, in both the short and long term, to prevent and defeat any type of aggression in any circumstances launched by hostile forces from anywhere.

Our people, state, and party have entrusted our armed forces, of which the contingent of middle- and high-ranking cadres is an essential part, with the undertaking of protecting our fatherland for generation after generation, for hundreds and thousands of years. Therefore, the task of heightening the knowledge and the leadership competence of this contingent of cadres so that they become capable of catching up with the latest developments of the new period, is a task of special importance. We all know that the forces in production, science, and technology nowadays are developing at an extremely rapid rate. New discoveries in these fields can be used directly, comprehensively, and instantly by the hostile forces in their subversive and aggressive schemes.

"Peaceful evolution", subversive violence, and wars of aggression, though all sharing common principles, will not always occur exactly in the same way as before. Furthermore, the enemies always keep their plans and weapons in secret while launching tactical maneuvers and tricks, and exploiting our mistakes and weaknesses to kick off their most unexpected moves.

We have been through wars of liberation to protect the fatherland. We have fought in a life-or-death spirit, used all our intelligence and strength, and been victorious. The experiences we acquired from those bloody wars are precious but not enough. We now possess the results of the efforts to build up the armed forces, and the physical facilities we currently own are to our advantage. The National Defense Academy and the contingent of cadres should sharpen their determination and use their time effectively to review their traditional experiences, simultaneously obtaining new comprehensive knowledge; they should equip themselves with modern military and national defense sciences, perfect staunch political acumen and command competence, enhance the ability of coordinated operations, manage the task of training the troops efficiently, hold firmly to the weapons in hand while learning about new, modern technologies, sharpen their sense of vigilance, and not allow a single second of negligence in the duty of protecting the fatherland, socialism, and the people's happiness.

Truthful and serious evaluation will reveal that, seen against its assigned functions and duties, the National Defense Academy and the contingent of high-ranking cadres are still far behind the demands of the new period.

We need to realize early on the areas where we are weak and still lag behind the level of common knowledge. We must build up the determination to win in modern warfare — and win with high efficiency right from the very first battle — and defeat all armed intervention maneuvers no matter how sudden they are, where they come from, or whichever reactionary forces have launched them. We should by all means defeat all acts of encroachment in the fait accompli style, maintain an unswerving political standpoint and sound commanding capacity, be ready to cope with all unexpected moves, together with the political system foil all plots and tricks of "peaceful evolution" and subversive violence right from the beginning, and constantly strive to improve the quality of teaching, learning, and scientific research.

Our academy should be made a model to others, and all its activities should be strictly managed in accordance with the state law and army rules. High-ranking cadres of the army should be the best models in upholding the state law.

Effort should be made to continue the process of perfecting the organization of and regulations for scientific research work in order to produce more projects with a high scientific value.

The academy's party work should aim to build up and train a contingent of high-ranking cadres who fully understand the characteristics of the workers class, possess the revolutionary combat mentality and awareness of criticism and self-criticism, always strive to maintain internal unity and a close association with the people, have healthy lifestyles, ensure the proper behavior of the commanders, and are competent in both military as well as party and political duties.

The industrialization and modernization undertaking of our country is the core duty of the new period. This undertaking involves the production forces, but it also needs to be attached to the development of production relationships in accordance with the socialist orientation during every step of the development process, and at both macro and micro levels.

Industrialization and modernization have links to all economic, cultural, social, and educational and training fields. They also relate to population allocation, national unity, the battle against deviations from socialism, and the combined duties of the construction of the fatherland and protection of the socialist fatherland. In real terms, they are the struggle of the people and class, between independence and subordination, between socialism and capitalism.

If we do not have a thorough understanding of the issue, or are content with a fragmented perception, a short-term profit, a purely economic-orientated mentality, and a neglected sense of vigilance, the results will be detrimental both for us and the many generations to come.

For this congress, I wish to remind you again, comrades, units, and localities, about the guidelines of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau, the Party Central Committee, and the government:

1. All sectors and all echelons should work with military and security cadres to draw up a comprehensive economic-national defense plan for their respective localities.

2. They should strictly implement the structure in which the party committee is the universal leader in all economic, political, military, security, cultural, social, external affairs, and public relations fields; and they should carefully plan the coordination in the organization of provincial or city defense areas and the handling of possible unexpected events.

3. Military cadres should always strive to educate themselves and increase their general capacity in all fields related to politics, military issues, national defense, the economy, culture, and external affairs so that they can fulfill their state-assigned tasks in national defense.

4. Party and state cadres, and mass organizations should study and thoroughly understand the harmonious combination of the two duties of construction of the fatherland and protection of the socialist fatherland. They should continually improve their national defense-security knowledge so as to be able to implement the aforementioned combination.

5. They should strengthen the close unity between the public security force and the armed forces (including border protection troops), between the children of the people and the party, and between those who have the same ideals and objectives so as to foil all the plots of

the hostile forces and effectively handle all events that occur within their area of responsibility.

All these guidelines are close to the noble duties of the National Defense Academy and to the contingent of middle-and high-ranking cadres, who are loyal, talented, and exemplary in all fields.

I hope that all delegates, educationalists, and science researchers will render services that make your academy worthy of being a center that provides training and advanced training in military and national defense knowledge to high-ranking cadres for the state and the Army.

I hope that all comrades who have had the honor of having been trained or are currently being trained by the National Defense Academy will exploit to the full the knowledge and qualities you acquired here. I wish you all good health, progress, and happiness.

Hanoi Rejects Paris-Based Report on Mistreatment of Buddhist Monk

BK0504111296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam has rejected a new release about the Paris-based International Buddhist Formation Office saying that Bronze Thich Hai Tang or Nguyen Dinh Hoa is seriously ill due to bad treatment in a prison near Hanoi.

Speaking at a press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said: It was a sheer frabrication.

Nguyen Dinh Hoa was receiving [words indistinct] treatment. He is in good health and receives the regular family care.

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